Los Angeles Times

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Photographs by Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

A CREW working near the stump of an incense cedar plants sequoia seedlings in the Save the Redwoods League's Alder Creek Grove.

Taking big steps to save the giants

Crews plant 30,000 sequoia seedlings in the western Sierra as part of an ongoing effort to restore groves devastated by wildfires in recent years

By Alex Wigglesworth

SEQUOIA CREST, Calif. — The worker stabbed the loamy soil with a hoedad, dropped in a delicate sequoia seedling and tamped the dirt tight around it. As he moved on to the next spot, and then the next, the hillside of the Alder Creek Grove slowly filled with small clumps of green needles.

Without this planting, naturalists worry giant sequoias will never grow on this charred hillside again. The wildfire that scorched this southern Sierra Nevada forest three years ago burned large swaths of land so intensely that it left thousands of ancient giants dead and smoldering. Their seed cones — which would ordinarily spawn new life — were incinerated.

Such devastation was once unheard of but is now happening more frequently as land management decisions and climate change create more flammable forests in the Sierra.

"Giant sequoia are going through an existential crisis," said Tim Borden of the Save the Redwoods League. "And I think all of us who are involved in giant sequoia research and management are going through the same existential crisis ourselves to really try to understand what's going on ... and what we can do about it."

Some of the 30,000 sequoias planted in this grove could grow to be among the world's largest trees and live for thousands of years — if they first survive the next couple of decades. Scientists are hoping this project will help them learn how to ensure that happens.

The Forest Service is also planting about 10,000 giant sequoia seedlings across 1,380 acres of high-severity burn areas

[See **Giants,** A10]

A STAND of charred and skeletal giant sequoias killed by the Castle fire, which ignited amid a siege of dry lightning in the summer of 2020.

State fell short of 15% goal for water savings

Californians used about 7% less on average between July 2021 and this March, Times' analysis shows.

By Hayley Smith and Sean Greene

The results are in: As California endured its three driest years on record, urban water users made a significant effort to conserve, but fell far short of Gov. Gavin Newsom's request to reduce water use by 15%.

Between July 2021, when Newsom first called on water users to voluntarily cut back, and March of this year, when he rescinded that request amid a very wet winter, statewide savings were 7%, or about half of what was requested. That amounts to about 9 fewer gallons per person per day, a Los Angeles Times analysis has found.

The findings varied considerably by region and by water district, with the North Coast and San Francisco Bay areas saving the most water — 14% and 12%, respectively — against the base-line year of 2020. The inland Tulare Lake and Colorado River regions saved the least, 4% and 2%, respectively. (The analysis did not include agricultural water use.)

State officials say the numbers belie the long-term conservation efforts Californians have made in recent decades, including significant savings during the 2012-16 drought, which ended only a few years before Newsom's request.

But they also acknowledged that there is considerable room for improvement. Residential statewide use was, on average, about 85 gallons per person per day. For comparison, Californians would have used 79 gallons per day if they had cut their use by 15%.

"Absolutely we can do better than that," said Charlotte Ely, conservation supervisor at the State Water Resources Control Board.

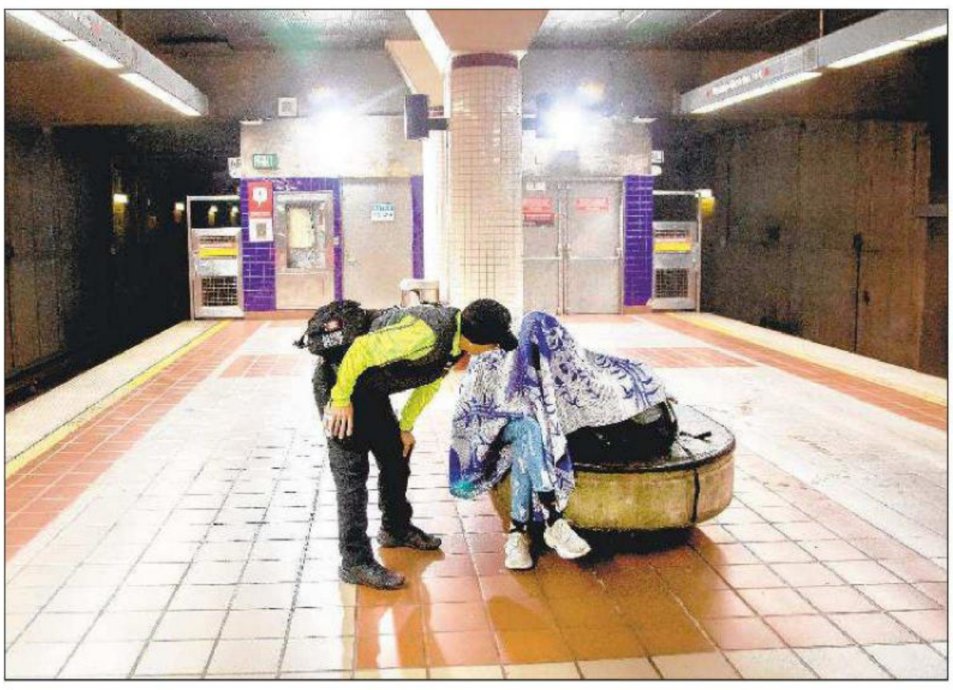
In July 2021, California was about two years into what was quickly becoming one of its most devastating droughts. Fifty counties were under a drought state of emergency when Newsom stood in front of a dwindling Lopez Lake in San Luis Obispo County and called on residents to reduce their water use by 15%.

Newsom rescinded the call March 24 of this year after back-to-back atmospheric rivers refilled reservoirs and dropped record and near-record snowpack in the Sierra, significantly easing drought conditions statewide.

But many experts were critical of Newsom's voluntary stance throughout the drought, arguing that he should have made cuts mandatory, like his predecessor, Jerry Brown, who ordered a 25% reduction during the 2012-16 drought. Residents reached just shy of that goal, reducing water use by 24.5%.

The Newsom administration said it was more focused on targeted drought responses based on local conditions, rather than a "one size fits all" approach that cannot account for past investments in conservation

[See **Water,** A7]



Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

METRO AMBASSADOR Fabian Bolanos checks on a person at a station June 7.

Metro workers turn saviors as opioid overdoses increase

One employee has revived 21 riders with naloxone

By Rachel Uranga

Walking along a rail platform, a veteran transit worker spotted a package of the opioid overdose-reversing drug naloxone, picked it up and slipped it in his vest. He couldn't imagine that he would use the medicine less than two hours later.

But looking back on that evening in February 2022, it shouldn't have been a surprise.

The synthetic opioid fentanyl was killing about four people a day in the Los Angeles County. Its reach stretched from high school classrooms to Beverly Hills homes; it plagued Skid Row and upended families across the region.

Inside train stations, one of the few free indoor spaces for those living on the margins, paramedics rush past commuters to platforms and train cabs to try to revive drug users who pushed too close to the edge or past it.

The transit worker saw so many overdoses he began going to a clinic on his way to work to get more doses of naloxone, commonly known by the brand Narcan. Metro had no clear policy on whether its workers can administer the drug, he said. But he couldn't bear to watch people die needlessly.

In 15 months, he has revived 21 people. The Times verified most of the claims through time-stamped photographs and

[See **Metro,** A5]

THE PATH FROM PANDEMIC

Virus at home in people, animals

COVID-19 infections have been found in at least 32 species in 39 countries. Some can transmit to humans.

By Melissa Healy

The COVID-19 pandemic is receding fast into our collective memory. But the virus that caused it lives on in our sewers, our backyards and maybe even curled up in a sunny spot on the living room floor.

The coronavirus that prompted more than 750 million infections in humans and nearly 7 million deaths has also spread to creatures great and small. Lions and tigers have caught it. So have pet dogs and cats. Scientists have even found SARS-CoV-2 in armadillos, anteaters, otters and manatees, among others.

At least 32 animal species in 39 countries have had confirmed coronavirus infections. For the most part, the animals do not become very ill. Still, some are capable of transmitting the virus to other members of their species, just like the asymptomatic humans who became "silent spreaders."

The coronavirus' ability to infect so many different animals, and to spread within some of those populations, is worrying news: It means there's virtually no chance the world will ever be rid of this particularly destructive coronavirus, scientists said.

And that's not even the worst of it: As long as SARS-CoV-2 is spreading in animals, the virus has the opportunity to acquire new mutations that could make it more dangerous to people. If circumstances align, the result would be Pandemic 2.0.

Scientists aren't saying this scenario is likely. But it's

[See **Coronavirus,** A7]

Tom Girardi is fit to stand trial, expert concludes

The finding adds fuel to debate over whether disbarred attorney has dementia or is faking. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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Golden Globes to get revamp

After years of turmoil, the group behind the awards show will become a for-profit company. **CALENDAR, E1**

Weather
Lingering clouds.
L.A. Basin: 73/57. **B6**

Nuggets beat Heat to win title

After 47 seasons in the NBA, Denver finally hoists a championship trophy. **SPORTS, B10**

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Gay Republican seeks a middle ground in the GOP

MARK Z. BARABAK
REPORTING FROM
WASHINGTON

Charles Moran is proudly gay and proudly Republican.

To some that combination is an inherent contradiction, like being a meat-eating vegetarian, a violent pacifist or a Dodger-loving San Francisco Giants fan.

In recent months, conservative extremists have declared war on the LGBTQ+ community, waging skirmishes on social media, school campuses and in the aisles of your friendly neighborhood Target store.

Hundreds of anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in statehouses across the country, part of a Pink Scare aimed at inciting the Republican base for political profit and financial gain.

Moran, however, insists there is a middle ground, even if you have to squint to see it through the blaze of the smoking culture wars.

"I don't want to see my movement, the gay movement, hijacked by far-left, cultural Marxists," he said. "And I don't want the anti-gay forces that still exist in the social conservative movement to hijack the progress that I helped make in the Republican Party."

Mark Z. Barabak Los Angeles Times

"I WANT TO be principled in how we respond," says Charles Moran, 42, of the Log Cabin Republicans.

Those are words guaranteed to antagonize people of various stripes, which reflects the odd and uncomfortable position of the Log Cabin Republicans, an organization that advocates for LGBTQ+ rights from within the GOP. The group in Washington claims more than 10,000 members nationwide. The 42-year-old Moran, born and raised in San Pedro, is president.

The club has long faced hostility from its supposed political kinfolk — "perverted" is one of the kinder epithets hurled at members — and today's atmosphere certainly isn't any more welcoming.

But Moran sees nothing contradictory in his political allegiance. Being gay doesn't necessarily make someone a Democrat, he suggested, and supporting the Republican agenda — up to a point — doesn't automatically mean a person is a homophobe.

"You've got a lot of gay conservatives that are horrified with the way the Republican Party is acting," he said. "You have a lot of gay conservatives who are horrified at the way the larger LGBT organizations are acting."

Guardrails are what's needed, he went on, to keep both sides from going off the edge. Or put another way, Moran suggested, there has to be compromise and a consensus somewhere in the hazy gray area between black and white.

"Over the last 20, 30 years we've had amazing movement with gay inclusion and normalization of who I am, of who we are in our families," he said. "I don't want to see that slide back. So instead of being hyper-reactive to things, I want to be principled in how we respond."

On an unseasonably mild spring day, in a pocket of green a few miles from the Capitol, Moran described a happy Southern California upbringing that involved none of the cruelty or hatred others have experienced simply for being who they are. He came out while going to Occidental College.

Dad was a firefighter. Mom was a flight attendant. Both were Republican, though neither was politically active.

Moran was drawn to the GOP from a young age because he believed Republicans have a more bottom-up approach to society and its problems. "Individual, family, community, city, state, nation," he described it. "Instead of the other way down."

Naturally, he doesn't agree with every position of everyone in the party.

Moran rejects the climate-change denialism that many head-in-the-sand Republicans embrace. He likes much of what the Democratic Party has to say about education and respect for working people.

"I'm definitely not a zero-sum ... or single-issue voter," he said. "I think single-issue voting is really dangerous in a democracy."

But it is the single issue of LGBTQ+ rights that places Moran athwart the pitchfork-wielding wing of the Republican Party and those promoting what he considers an anything goes — or should be allowed to go — political agenda.

It is not anti-LGBTQ+, he said, to believe children should wait until at least age 16 to gender transition.

It is not bigoted, he said, to hold off until at least the sixth grade to allow classroom instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity.

It is not homophobic, he said, to believe sexually explicit drag performances should be limited to adult audiences.

"Guess what? We regulate NC-17 movies," Moran said, referring to ratings intended to limit certain content to mature audiences. "What's the difference?"

Of course, some Republicans won't be happy, it seems, until every last transsexual is made to disappear and every member of the LGBTQ+ community is shoved back in the closet and put under lock and key.

It's not just, as they claim, about "protecting" children.

Missouri's Republican governor signed legislation that will ban gender-affirming care for some adults. Other Republican-led states have looked at ways to limit healthcare for transgender grown-ups.

The Florida Board of Education, helping Gov. Ron DeSantis fluff up his Republican presidential resume, expanded restrictions on sexual orientation and gender instruction through the 12th grade.

GOP lawmakers in Tennessee passed a first-of-its-kind law strictly limiting drag performances. (It was tossed out by a judge who, Moran noted, was appointed by President Trump.)

Once the government starts targeting a particular group, the slope can get awfully slippery.

In Moran's leafy northwest Washington neighborhood, a profusion of rainbow flags and Pride Month bunting blossomed from windows and storefronts, as bright and cheery as the brilliant dogwoods and lustrous azalea bushes.

Does he worry that a change in political climate, and anything less than give-no-quarter resistance, will undo decades of hard-fought achievement for the LGBTQ+ community?

Moran does not.

"LGBT people are everywhere in society," he said. "We are in every political affiliation. We're every race. We're every religion.... I think we as a society have moved beyond that."

That's not to say, however, some won't keep trying to wind back the clock.

Cash-strapped Pakistan welcomes discounted crude oil from Russia

The shipment, in the works since 2022, shows that Moscow is rerouting its supply in the wake of sanctions.

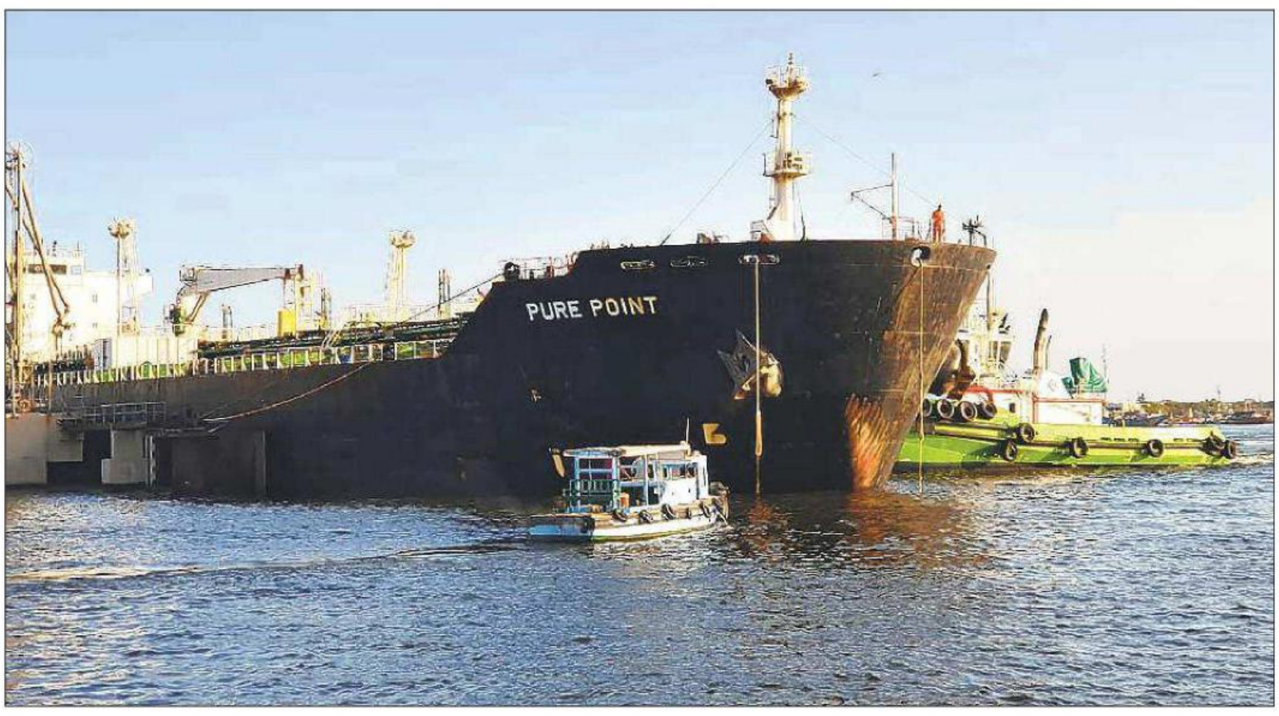
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The Pakistani government on Monday welcomed the arrival of the first shipment of discounted crude from Russia under a key deal between Islamabad and Moscow.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif hailed the shipment as a "fulfillment of promises" to Pakistan, while Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb tweeted that it marked a "true service" for the people.

The cargo was being unloaded in the port city of Karachi, Pakistan's main hub for imports.

Cash-strapped Pakistan had been in talks with Russia to import discounted crude since February 2022, when former Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Moscow to meet with President Vladimir Putin. Khan's visit coincided with the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and, at the time, strained relations between Pakistan and the United States. Moscow has since grappled with Western sanctions over the war, rerouting much of its supply to India, China and other Asian countries at discounted prices after Western customers shunned it in response to the invasion.



Karachi Port Trust

A TANKER carrying Russian crude is anchored Sunday at a port in Karachi, Pakistan. "If we start getting one-third of our crude oil from Russia, then there will be a big difference in prices," a Pakistani official said.

Pakistan's deputy oil minister, Musadiq Malik, told Geo News that Islamabad had initially signed an agreement with Russia for the purchase of 100,000 tons of oil, which is supposed to arrive in two ships. The first vessel with the crude arrived Sunday in Karachi; the size of its cargo load was not immediately known.

Malik did not share details about the price of Russian oil, saying only that Pakistan will try to ensure a steady import with the expectation that prices for consumers will decrease.

"If we start getting one-third of our crude oil from Russia, then there will be a big difference in prices, and its effect will reach people's pockets," Malik said.

No details were revealed about how the payments are being made.

Sharif's government is grappling with an unprecedented economic crisis in the aftermath of flooding last summer that killed more than 1,700 people and caused $30 billion in damages. Meanwhile, talks with the International Monetary Fund for the revival of a $6-billion bailout package have been on hold since December.

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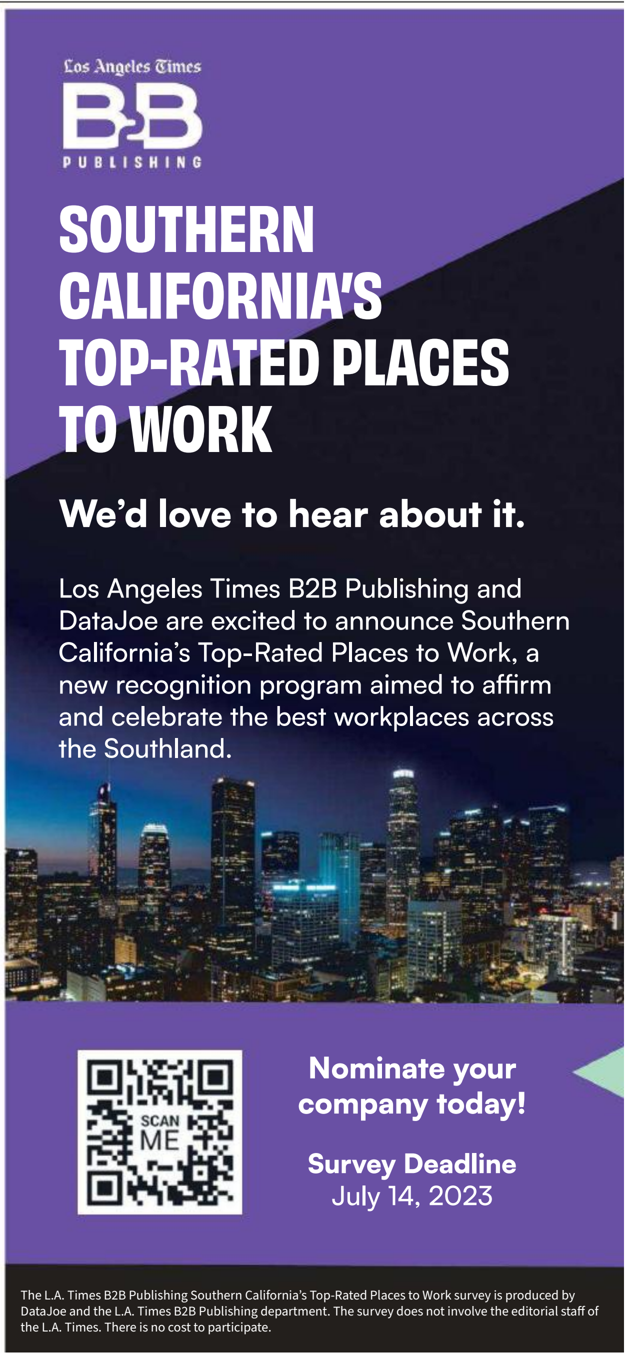
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Ukraine says it has recaptured 7 villages

The gains are small, and analysts caution that routing skilled Russian troops will probably take months.

By Jamey Keaten

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian troops have retaken seven villages spanning 35 square miles from Russian forces in the last week, the deputy defense minister said Monday as the early stages of Kyiv's counteroffensive notched small successes.

Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar wrote on the messaging app Telegram that the Ukrainian flag was again flying over the village of Storozhov, in the eastern province of Donetsk, and that her troops had also retaken three other nearby small villages and another three in neighboring Zaporizhzhia province.

"The battles are tough, but our movement is there, and that is very important," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in his nightly video address. He added that rainy weather is challenging his troops, and that he's discussed with his military commanders "which points of the front we need to strengthen and what actions we can take to break more Russian positions."

On Sunday, Ukrainian officials said their troops took the Donetsk villages of Blahodatne, Makarivka and Neskuchne — south of the town of Velyka Novosilka. Maliar reported Monday that the Zaporizhzhia province settlements of Lobkove, Levadne and Novodrivka were also back under Ukrainian control.

Russian officials did not confirm Ukraine's gains, which were impossible to verify and could be reversed in the to-and-fro of war. The gains amounted to only small bits of territory and underscored the difficulty of the battle ahead for Ukrainian forces, who will have to fight yard by yard to regain the roughly one-fifth of their country under Russian occupation.

Evgeniy Maloletka Associated Press

VITALII Shpalin, 60, is treated at a hospital in the Kherson region of Ukraine after he was shot Sunday while fleeing a flooded Dnipro River village on a boat.

Recent fighting on the western edge of the 600-mile front line has been complicated by a dam breach that sent floodwaters into a part of the Dnipro River separating the two sides.

Western analysts and military officials have cautioned that any effort to rout entrenched, powerfully armed and skilled Russian troops will probably take months, and the success of any Ukrainian counteroffensive is far from certain.

French President Emmanuel Macron said in Paris that the Ukrainian counteroffensive began several days ago and "is set to be deployed over several weeks, if not months."

Vladimir Rogov, an official with the Moscow-appointed administration of the Zaporizhzhia region at the western end of the front line, said "heavy battles" were raging in the area Monday involving Russian artillery, mortars and air power.

The villages are part of an area where the Russian front lines jut out into territory held by Ukraine. Though just over a mile deep, the protrusion has recently become one of several epicenters of intense fighting along the front line that cuts across southern and eastern Ukraine.

Capturing the villages is an incursion into the first line of Russian defenses and could allow Ukrainian forces to try a deeper thrust into occupied areas.

Russian forces control far less Ukrainian land than they did before a blistering Ukrainian counteroffensive last year that retook the northern city of Kharkiv and southern city of Kherson, among other places.

On Saturday, Zelensky said "counteroffensive, defensive actions are taking place" without specifying whether it was the all-out counteroffensive that has long been expected after a vast infusion of Western firepower and air defense systems into Ukraine. A day earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted that the counteroffensive had started and Ukrainian forces were taking "significant losses."

Ukrainian forces have focused on the Zaporizhzhia region and an area near the devastated city of Bakhmut, among other locations.

Russian authorities have said their troops are largely holding their ground.

But Semyon Pegov, a prominent Russian military blogger who goes by the nickname WarGonzo, acknowledged that Russian troops had withdrawn from Blahodatne, Neskuchne and Makarivka, and said Ukrainian forces were trying to push forward along the banks of the Mokri Yaly River on Monday.

Alexandet Kots, a military correspondent for Russian daily Komsomolskaya Pravda, said Ukrainian forces were attempting to advance, despite heavy losses, toward the town of Staromlinovka, which sits on a strategic highway leading to the key city of Mariupol. Russian forces captured the Azov Sea port city more than a year ago, after Ukrainian forces held out for several months in a grueling and desperate defense.

On Monday, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said at least four civilians were killed and 16 wounded by Russian shelling over the last 24 hours.

In Donetsk, Russian shelling hit nine towns and villages and left one civilian dead and two wounded. Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko posted images of apartment buildings and a cultural center damaged by Russian strikes in the town of Avdiivka.

In Kharkiv, Russian forces pummeled several settlements with artillery, mortar and rocket fire, injuring at least three people, regional state administration chief Oleh Sinegubov wrote on Telegram.

The reported Ukrainian advance comes as authorities on both sides of the front line along the Dnipro River in the southern Kherson region pressed on with rescue and relocation efforts for civilians driven from their homes by flooding from the breach of the Kakhovka dam last week.

With many homes and shops submerged in polluted water, the United Nations and aid organizations say that access to fresh drinking water is a crucial need and that the possible spread of waterborne disease is a big worry. Thousands of people have been evacuated, though some remain.

Kherson Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said Monday that water levels have been receding. They now average nearly 10 feet higher than normal. More than 32 towns and villages remain flooded, he said, and Russian forces have continued shelling inundated areas held by Ukraine on the river's western bank.

On Sunday, Prokudin said three people were killed when Moscow's troops opened fire at a boat evacuating people from Russian-occupied areas.

Keaten writes for the Associated Press.

U.S. set to rejoin U.N. cultural organization

Move aims to counter China's influence and ends a decade-long fallout over inclusion of Palestinians.

By Angela Charlton

PARIS — The United Nations' cultural and scientific agency, UNESCO, announced Monday that the U.S. plans to rejoin — and will pay more than $600 million in back dues — after a decade-long dispute that stemmed from the organization's move to include the Palestinian territories as a member.

U.S. officials say the decision was motivated by concern that China is filling the gap left by the U.S. in UNESCO policymaking, notably in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

The move will face a vote by UNESCO's member states in the coming weeks. But approval seems a formality after the resounding applause that greeted the announcement in UNESCO's Paris headquarters Monday. Not a single country raised an objection to the return of a nation that was once the agency's single biggest funder.

The U.S. and Israel stopped funding UNESCO after it voted to include the Palestinian territories as a member state in 2011, and the Trump administration decided in 2017 to withdraw from the agency altogether the next year, citing long-running anti-Israel bias and management problems.

UNESCO's director general, Audrey Azoulay, has worked to address those concerns since her election in 2017, and that appears to have paid off.

"It's a historic moment for UNESCO," she said Monday. "It's also an important day for multilateralism."

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard Verma submitted a letter last week to Azoulay formalizing the plan to rejoin. Verma noted progress in de-politicizing debate about the Middle East at UNESCO and reforming the agency's management, according to the hand-delivered letter, which was obtained by the Associated Press.

The decision is a big financial boost to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known for its World Heritage program as well as projects to fight climate change and teach girls to read.

Although Palestinian membership in UNESCO was the trigger for the U.S. fallout with the agency, its return is more about China's growing influence.

Undersecretary of State for Management John Bass said in March that the U.S. absence from UNESCO has strengthened China and "undercuts our ability to be as effective in promoting our vision of a free world."

He said UNESCO was key in setting and shaping standards for technology and science teaching around the world, "so if we're really serious about the digital-age competition with China ... we can't afford to be absent any longer."

The U.S. decision doesn't address the status of the Palestinians. Despite membership in UNESCO, the Palestinians are further away from statehood than ever. There have not been serious peace talks in more than a decade, and Israel's new government is filled with hard-liners who oppose Palestinian independence.

The Palestinian ambassador didn't comment on the U.S. decision. The only envoy who wasn't gushing with praise was China's ambassador, Jin Yang. He noted the negative effects of the U.S. absence, and expressed hope that the move means Washington is serious about multilateralism.

Francois Mori Associated Press

THE U.S. will pay $600 million in back dues to rejoin UNESCO, headquartered in Paris. UNESCO's leader is being praised for her efforts to work with Washington.

"Being a member of an international organization is a serious issue, and we hope that the return of the U.S. this time means it acknowledges the mission and the goals of the organization," the ambassador said.

Since her election in 2017, Azoulay has worked to address the reasons the U.S. left, through budget reforms and building consensus among Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli diplomats on sensitive UNESCO resolutions. Azoulay — who is Jewish — won praise from UNESCO ambassadors for her personal efforts to address U.S. concerns over Israel in particular.

The U.S. decision to come back "is the result of five years of work, during which we calmed tensions, notably on the Middle East, improved our response to contemporary challenges, resumed major initiatives on the ground and modernized the functioning of the organization," Azoulay said.

She met with Democrats and Republicans in Washington to explain those efforts, according to a UNESCO diplomat. Thanks to those bipartisan negotiations, UNESCO diplomats expressed confidence that the U.S. decision to return is for the long term, regardless of who wins next year's presidential election.

The diplomats were not authorized to be publicly named in discussing the behind-the-scenes work that led to the U.S. decision.

Under the plan, the U.S. government would pay its 2023 dues, plus $10 million in bonus contributions this year earmarked for Holocaust education, cultural heritage preservation in Ukraine, journalist safety, and science and technology education in Africa, Verma's letter says.

The Biden administration has already requested $150 million for the 2024 budget to go toward UNESCO dues and arrears. The plan foresees similar requests for the ensuing years until the full debt of $619 million is paid off.

That accounts for a big chunk of UNESCO's $534-million annual operating budget. Before leaving, the U.S. contributed 22% of the overall funding.

One diplomat expressed hope that the return of the U.S. would bring "more ambition and more serenity" — and energize programs to regulate artificial intelligence, educate girls in Afghanistan and chronicle victims of slavery in the Caribbean.

The diplomat said that the agency would also "welcome" Israel back if it wanted to rejoin. There was no immediate response from the Israeli government.

Israel has long accused the United Nations of anti-Israel bias. In 2012, over Israeli objections, the Palestinian territories were recognized as a nonmember observer state by the U.N. General Assembly. The Palestinians claim the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip — territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East War — for an independent state. Israel says the Palestinians' efforts to win recognition at the U.N. are aimed at pressuring Israel into making concessions.

The U.S. previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Reagan administration in 1984 because it viewed the agency as mismanaged, corrupt and used to advance Soviet interests. It rejoined in 2003.

Charlton writes for the Associated Press.

Israeli opposition leader testifies

Netanyahu rival says prime minister pressed him on legislation that would benefit a Hollywood mogul.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel's opposition leader testified Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried to persuade him — twice — to back legislation that would have given a Hollywood mogul and personal pal millions of dollars in tax breaks.

But Yair Lapid, a former prime minister and major Netanyahu rival, remained unpersuaded, he said.

Lapid made the statements as he testified in Jerusalem in one of three corruption cases against Netanyahu.

The indictment alleges that Netanyahu abused his position to further the interests of Arnon Milchan, the Israeli founder of Hollywood production company New Regency, in exchange for gifts, representing a conflict between the premier's public duties and personal friendship.

Netanyahu did personal favors for Milchan, including asking U.S. officials to extend Milchan's green card and renewing Israeli regulations that exempted returnees from declaring foreign income, according to the indictment.

Lapid testified Monday that Milchan and his attorneys had tried without success to persuade him that extending the tax breaks for a decade would be good for Israel, local media reported. Then, Lapid testified, Netanyahu broached the matter with him twice — once at the prime minister's residence and once outside a Cabinet meeting, according to the reports.

Lapid said he told Netanyahu the extention wasn't going to happen. He said the prime minister responded by saying it was "a good law."

Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, denies claims of wrongdoing, asserting that he was not acting in Milchan's personal interests and occasionally acted against them. He says his exchanges of gifts with Milchan were merely friendly gestures.

Milchan is expected to testify in the case in a video call from London, where he resides, this month.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz has reported that in 2013, Lapid, then finance minister, sought legal advice on the possibility of promoting legislation that would have benefited Milchan. Reportedly, Lapid said he replied, "No way" to Netanyahu and Milchan about the prospects for the legislation.

Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in three separate scandals involving media moguls and wealthy associates. He denies wrongdoing.

Critics say Netanyahu is on a campaign to weaken the Israeli courts and change the judicial system in order to open an escape route from his trial — claims he dismisses.

The corruption charges have been at the center of a protracted political crisis that sent Israelis to the polls five times in less than four years — each vote essentially a referendum on Netanyahu's fitness to rule.

After losing power in 2021 to a coalition of opponents, Netanyahu returned as prime minister late last year, despite his legal problems.

Under Israeli law, the prime minister has no obligation to step aside while on trial.

The trial, which began in May 2020, has featured more than 40 prosecution witnesses, including some of Netanyahu's closest former confidants.

Witness accounts have shed light not only on the three cases but on sensational details about Netanyahu's character and his family's reputation for living off the largesse of taxpayers and wealthy supporters.

Miami becomes center stage for Trump drama

The ex-president will appear in federal court in the once-blue city, which is now a GOP stronghold.

By Adriana Gomez Licon and Joshua Goodman

JOE BIDEN
DESTRUYE
PUEBLO
WOMEN for TRUMP
Keep America Great
LIBERTY

Gerald Herbert Associated Press

MIAMI RESIDENTS Oswaldo Hernandez, left, and Maribel Gonzalez await Donald Trump's arrival Monday at his Doral golf resort. The classified documents case has highlighted his popularity among Florida's Latinos.

MIAMI — Florida's shift to the right is perhaps nowhere more notable than in this vibrant swath of the state's southeast coast, where the latest Donald Trump drama is unfolding.

Republicans have made steady inroads in this former Democratic stronghold in recent years, culminating in the GOP carrying Miami-Dade County in last year's midterm elections. The party's broader future could hinge on what happens next in south Florida — but for a very different reason.

Trump, the former president who is again the front-runner for the 2024 GOP nomination, will make his first appearance in federal court Tuesday in Miami, where he faces 37 felony counts related to charges of illegal retention of classified information.

The charges have propelled Miami to the center of a story line that, until recently, was largely thought to be unfolding in a grand jury room in Washington. And it has brought to the forefront Trump's rising popularity among Florida's Latinos, some of whom have drawn comparisons between the former president's prosecution and events abroad in which opposition leaders have been arrested or prosecuted in kangaroo courts — despite the U.S. tradition of respect for the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

"These are the sort of things that you see in the Caribbean and Latin America, where you have the party in power persecuting the opposition," said Kevin Marino Cabrera, a Miami-Dade County commissioner who is friends with Trump and served as the Florida state director for his 2020 reelection campaign. "This community, what it sees is injustice being committed."

Miami-Dade is the state's most populous county and home to 1.5 million Latinos of voting age.

In 2016, Democrat Hillary Clinton carried the county over Trump by nearly 30 percentage points. But Trump made gains in 2020, getting the margin down to 7 percentage points against Democrat Joe Biden.

Last year, the county flipped, with Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis — who built his brand as a MAGA politician lifted from relative obscurity by Trump — defeating his Democratic opponent by more than 11 points.

The shift was on display last week when, on the day his indictment was unsealed, Trump was playing golf with Republican U.S. Rep. Carlos A. Gimenez, whose district covers parts of Miami-Dade. In 2016, the Cuban-born congressman voted for Clinton, but he backed Trump in 2020, even supporting efforts to reject the results of the election in the hours after the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection.

On Monday, Trump arrived at his golf resort in the Miami suburb of Doral, sometimes called "Doral-zuela" because of its large population of Venezuelans. They make up one of the groups in which the GOP has seen significant gains.

"There is no equal justice for all," said Ernesto Ackerman, a member of the Venezuelan-American Republican Club. "Trump has been persecuted for six years. They are looking for excuses to impeach him because they are terrified of him."

As if to stir up that Miami base, Trump over the weekend in North Carolina reminded voters of his hard-line stance against Venezuela's president, Nicolas Maduro, contrasting it with the Biden administration's efforts to ease sanctions on the socialist leader.

"When I left, Venezuela was ready to collapse. We would've taken it over and would've gotten all that oil," Trump said at a campaign rally in Greensboro. "But now we're buying oil from Venezuela, so we're making a dictator very rich."

Trump supporter Hope Quant, a native Nicaraguan, spent three hours waiting outside the Doral golf resort to show her support for the former president when he arrived Monday. She said the prosecution of Trump reminds her of how the leftist Sandinista government in her homeland has gone after political opponents.

"What are they hiding? It must really be something bad. Hopefully, one day we will find out," said Quant, who cited, in part, Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen from him.

Miami is a hotbed for the far right, raising concerns that protests could get out of hand Tuesday.

At a news conference on the eve of Trump's court appearance, Miami Police Chief Manuel Morales declined to get into the specifics of the security precautions but said he didn't expect any problems.

On Monday, security guards and federal officers were stationed outside the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Federal Courthouse, a sleek, glass high-rise that's lined by palm trees. More than a dozen media tents were set up outside to cover the historic case.

Alex Otaola, a Cuban-born YouTube personality who is running for Miami-Dade County mayor, is rallying his followers to show up and protest Trump's prosecution. Otaola is known for organizing pro-Trump caravans in Miami's Little Havana and other neighborhoods.

"Those of us who believe that America's salvation only comes if Donald Trump is elected for a second term, we will gather on Tuesday," Otaola said in a YouTube clip.

Miami has seen its share of high-profile national security cases — from the 1990s prosecution of Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega to the trial of American Al Qaeda recruit Jose Padilla.

While Trump will make his initial appearance Tuesday in Miami, the case was filed in West Palm Beach, 70 miles to the north. It has been initially assigned to Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who was criticized for rulings in his favor during a dispute last year over a special master assigned to review the seized classified documents.

Additionally, there's the question of whether the fast-changing politics of South Florida could provide tactical advantages to the former president's defense. Palm Beach County also turned red in the recent midterm elections.

Former federal prosecutor David Weinstein said Trump may have been summoned for his first appearance in Miami because of the large media interest and larger federal law enforcement required to keep the proceedings safe.

Although Trump contests the notion that he is enjoying the attention a federal indictment is giving him, he often boasts about the love he receives from his followers.

Before last year's midterm elections, Trump held a rally with Sen. Marco Rubio in Miami that was attended by thousands of supporters. They held aloft signs reading "Cubans for Trump," "Nicaraguans for Trump" and "Venezuelans for Trump."

After Trump referred to Hispanics as "great people," the crowd cheered and chanted, "We love you! We love you!"

"Oh, do I love you too," Trump said. "You have no idea how much."

Gomez Licon and Goodman write for the Associated Press. AP writers Terry Spencer and Gisela Salomon contributed to this report.

FOR THE RECORD

Migrant flights: In the June 11 Section A, an article about contractors recruiting migrants for flights said Imelda Maynard was with Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico; she is director of legal services at Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services Inc.

Tax extension: In the June 11 California section, an article about mistaken Internal Revenue Service notices mailed to people notifying them that their income tax was due within three weeks said the tax extension in areas affected by "severe winter storms, flooding and mudslides" applied to 51 counties. It applied to 55 counties.

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Mom held in killing is denied bail

Utah woman who wrote book on grief is charged with murder in the 2022 poisoning death of her husband.

By Sam Metz

Rick Bowmer Pool Photo

KOURI RICHINS reacts at her hearing Monday. Her attorneys questioned the evidence against her.

PARK CITY, Utah — A Utah mother of three who wrote a children's book about coping with grief after her husband's death and was later accused of fatally poisoning him will remain in jail for the duration of her trial on murder and drug charges, a judge said Monday.

Kouri Richins lowered her head and cried as a detective testified about authorities finding the body of her husband, Eric, "cold to the touch," and prosecutors argued the evidence against her was strong enough to deny her bail.

Her case became a true-crime sensation last month when charges were filed as a transfixed public pored over "Are You With Me?" — the illustrated storybook about an angel wing-clad father watching over his children after his death — and scrutinized remarks Richins made promoting the book as a tool to help children grieve.

Monday's detention hearing offered both prosecutors and Richins' attorneys a chance to preview their cases and provide contrasting theories of the case.

Prosecutors called to the stand a detective, a private investigator and a forensic accountant who painted a picture of Richins as having calculatingly plotted to kill her husband, making financial arrangements and purchasing drugs found in his system after his March 2022 death.

In a victim's impact statement she read in court, Eric Richins' sister, Amy, called her sister-in-law "desperate, greedy and extremely manipulative." She accused Richins of intentionally poisoning Eric Richins and said it was painful for the family to watch her sister-in-law promote her book and herself as an amazing mother.

"How can anyone value human life so cheaply? I cannot comprehend it," she said.

Richins' attorneys argued the evidence against her was both dubious and circumstantial, noting that no drugs were found at the family home after the death and suggesting the state's star witness — the housekeeper who claims to have sold Richins the drugs — had motivation to lie as she sought leniency in the face of state and federal drug charges.

"They provided evidence to her, essentially, until she got it right," Skye Lazaro, Richins' attorney, said of police interviews with the housekeeper.

While a handcuffed Richins shook her head in defiance, prosecutors questioned the detective about the housekeeper who claims to have sold her fentanyl weeks before it was found in her husband's system and the family's "bug out bags" full of emergency provisions and passports that they suggested made her a flight risk unsuitable for bail.

She huffed deeply as they questioned the private investigator about the search history on her devices — including for "luxury prison for the rich" and the information disclosed on death certificates.

And with members of both sides of the family sitting in the court gallery behind them, they asked the forensic accountant about Richins' personal financial struggles and the millions of dollars at stake in her husband's estate.

"One or two pills might be accidental. Twenty — or five times the lethal dose — is not accidental. That is a lot. That is someone who wanted Eric dead," Summit County Chief Prosecutor Patricia Cassell said.

The detention hearing built off court documents in which prosecutors allege Richins slipped a lethal dose of fentanyl into a Moscow mule cocktail she made for her husband amid marital disputes and fights over a multimillion-dollar mansion she ultimately purchased as an investment.

The court documents paint a picture of a conniving woman who tried to lethally poison her husband multiple times, including on a vacation to Greece and weeks before his death.

Witnesses interviewed as part of the investigation allege that on Valentine's Day she laced a sandwich made for him with hydrocodone and repeatedly denied involvement on the day of his death in March 2022, telling police, "My husband is active. He doesn't just die in his sleep. This is insane."

In court filings, Richins' attorneys said prosecutors "simply accepted" the narrative from Eric Richins' family that his wife had poisoned him "and worked backward in an effort to support it" by spending about 14 months investigating and finding no evidence to support their theory.

Lazaro said the prosecution's case based on Richins' financial motives proved only that she was "bad at math," not that she was guilty of murder.

The couple and their three sons lived in a new development in the town of Francis, roughly 50 miles east of Salt Lake City.

The couple had argued over whether to purchase an unfinished, 20,000-square-foot mansion in nearby Midway, according to court filings.

If the case goes to trial, it will probably revolve around financial and marital disputes as possible motives. In addition to arguing over real estate, prosecutors say Richins made major changes to the family's estate plans before her husband's death, taking out life insurance policies on him with benefits totaling nearly $2 million.

Metz writes for the Associated Press.

Metro workers save riders from overdoses

[**Metro,** from A1]
witnesses.

"I'm tired of seeing people dying right in front of me," said the worker, who has been with Metro for more than a decade and asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak with media.

Five months into the year, at least 35 people had died in the Metro system. The causes of deaths are under investigation, and most are suspected overdoses.

Metro policy prohibits workers from freely speaking with media or photographing conditions inside the trains. But half a dozen current and former workers, who include cleaning staff and security guards, spoke to The Times about the deaths and near deaths caused by drug use on the trains.

Some are angry about conditions; others feel resigned and numb. Their emotions are complicated by not only the brazen drug use, but also a rise in attacks on Metro personnel. Last year, 158 operators were assaulted.

"Unfortunately, when people with drug abuse issues come into our system from the communities we serve across L.A. County, our frontline employees bear the burden of discovering people who've overdosed, cleaning up after drug users or encountering their behavior while the drugs are in effect," Metro spokesperson Pamela Krebs said in an email. "The societal issues of drug abuse, crime, and homelessness across our county have made it much harder for them to do their jobs — and for Metro to provide the service it is intended to provide: safe, clean, efficient and reliable transportation."

A worker who was attacked a few years ago during her night shift said she was told not to record scenes she sees daily on her phone. Her photo feed is filled with pictures of men taking drugs, people half clothed, dead bodies, fights and blood-stained walls.

"I pray. I pray a lot because, Lord, only Jesus can change it," she said.

Complaints about drug use and sales reported on the Metro Transit Watch app soared nearly 100% last year compared with the previous year. But the employee with Narcan in his pocket didn't need data to prove how bad things had gotten.

That night in February last year, he arrived to see a limp body sprawled out inside a rail car, according to his photos of the incident. Metro transit officers were standing over a young man with tussled hair and skin-tight white pants.

"This guy was turning purple. Not breathing, vomiting on himself," the worker said. "From what I can tell, he was very, very close to death."

Westlake/MacArthur Park
To Union Station
Metro
AMBASSADOR

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

METRO AMBASSADOR Fabian Bolanos says he has administered the lifesaving drug naloxone four times since he started in fall. The medication, often called Narcan, can halt the effects of an opioid overdose.

The worker pulled the packet from his Metro vest and offered up the Narcan to the officers. None wanted to administer a drug they had yet been trained to use, he said.

In the past, the worker would have felt the same. He had had little sympathy for the riders he saw daily, strung out in bench seats.

"They did this to themselves," he recalled thinking. "To be honest, I didn't really give a s—."

But the year before, he had befriended a 21-year-old struggling with fentanyl addiction. The young man was earnest, asking about how credit works and buying a home. He had a baby on the way, had gone through rehab and was seemingly starting a new chapter.

On Christmas Eve, just two months before, the friend died of an overdose.

"His baby was due like April," he said. "It was heart-wrenching."

The friendship gave him a new understanding.

"I had a different perspective on the overdoses that I would see," he said. "It was personal."

He clutched the tiny spray bottle and pumped a dose up the man's nose. Paramedics arrived. The man came to and walked off without acknowledgment. The worker was astonished at his recovery. That night, he searched online for training videos online.

"It was the push that I needed to look into it," he said. "To do something about it."

At that point, Metro employees had not been trained on how to use Narcan, although law enforcement officers who patrol the system carry the drug. Recently, transit safety officers and ambassadors have been trained.

Metro Chief Executive Stephanie Wiggins has said she hopes that training of its officers and 327 ambassadors — who are contracted to greet and help passengers — will have a "huge impact" on the system.

Fabian Bolanos, 52, says he has administered the drug four times since he started as an ambassador in fall.

"It's pretty intense," he said.

The first time, he spotted a man passed out on a bench at the Civic Center/Grand Park station with a needle in his arm, lips turning purple.

"I just immediately grabbed Narcan that I had, and I administered it," he said. "He wasn't coming back, and I started compressions. Then I gave him the second dose of Narcan, kept going on compressions, and finally he came back."

At the time, he had been on the job about two months, working for a Metro contractor, Strive Well-Being Inc. The company "expressly prohibited" using the medicine, he said, but he wouldn't just watch people die.

Metro eventually changed the policy.

Bolanos, a former methamphetamine user and alcoholic who once overdosed, said the man fortified his own sobriety.

"It's a daily affirmation that I'm doing the right thing and that I need to maintain my sobriety," he said. "If I can hand it over and maybe give it to somebody else in need, maybe they go to a rehab, I'm doing my part."

When the revived man came to, Bolanos said, he got up and left on his scooter. He saw him later and asked, "You remember me?"

The man did. He appeared embarrassed.

"I told him try to get him to a rehab," Bolanos said. "I told him this is not going to end well. I have seen him around the train stations. He is still using."

Bolanos and the unidentified Metro worker have had days where they have to administer Narcan twice. Bolanos, who is leading a campaign to organize Strive Well-Being workers, said conditions have improved over recent months. In May, Metro reported a 17.8% reduction in complaints about drug use between Feb. 13 and May 8 as it cracked down on drug use on the system. It is still rampant.

Less than three months ago, he was exiting the platform at Westlake/MacArthur Park station when he saw a man in his 20s slumped over, lips turning blue. He had no pulse. Bolanos revived the man with Narcan and headed up the station's mezzanine to the break room when he saw a man in his 50s passed out near the ticket vending machine.

"This is unbelievable," he recalled thinking. "Another person right here right now."

"I was still trembling from giving compressions," he said. "I was still in this intense emotional feeling, and for me to look and see this other guy, I said, 'Nah, this can't be going back to back.' "

To stem the deaths, Los Angeles County helped distribute 112,000 boxes of Narcan last year as people left jail or through groups such as Community Health Project L.A.

The program is part of the county's expansion of what is known in treatment circles as harm-reduction services, strategies aimed at reducing the deadly effects of drug use. Since beginning in 2019, the program has reported 19,661 naloxone reversals, which is likely an undercount. Roughly half of those, or 9,790 reversals, were reported last year.

"It's everywhere in a way that it wasn't before," said Shoshanna Scholar, director of the county's Department of Health Services Harm Reduction Division. The agency helps train community workers, including staff at homeless shelters and other interim housing on how to use the medicine. "What we do know is without the naloxone ... the overdose deaths would be much, much worse."

Ricky Bluthenthal, the associate dean for social justice at the Keck School of Medicine at USC, sees the drug use on Metro against a wider backdrop of inequity in a region where homelessness has been growing as rents rise and there's few discrete spaces to use drugs on the streets. Many of those using drugs on the system don't have permanent homes, he said, but not all. Drug use can be a cause of homelessness or a symptom.

Whatever it is, overdoses take more homeless people than violence or car accidents.

In the early 1990s, Bluthenthal co-founded the Oakland California Syringe Exchange Program and was a founding board member of the national Harm Reduction Coalition, an advocacy and training organization devoted to improving the health of people who use drugs.

He started the program because he felt state, federal and local authorities weren't doing enough to stop the spread of HIV among drug users. People were left to die, much as they are now.

"Ultimately, we have to start caring for people who have become disadvantaged in our society," he said.

"We're creating homelessness as a structural reality," he said. "We can make different choices."

There's no one fix, he said, but providing better housing or providing overdose prevention sites, where people can safely use drugs, could help.

Recently the Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan for over-the-counter sales, a move that could allow for wider distribution of the drug and remove training barriers.

An overdose can happen within a few minutes of ingesting drugs, sometimes longer, depending on the dose and whether it was smoked or injected, said Brian Hurley, the medical director for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control. Once breathing stops, death arrives in minutes.

It's not unusual for the nearly 2,600 maintenance workers at Metro to find people who are using drugs, passed out or unresponsive.

"It's taken a great mental toll on our membership," said Art Aguilar, former president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1277, which represents those workers.

Maintenance staff regularly clean up needles, pipes and foil used to carry and cook drugs.

"We have seen an increase in usage of our therapy in our medical plan for our members," he said.

"I was hired in 33 years ago as a service attendant ... and you had issues with drugs then, but not to the level it is today," he said. "When I was hired in, I was brought to clean buses, not to find a body in it."

In one of the transit worker's videos, he is calling out to a thin man who is bent over, limbs tangled under a rail seat. He slowly pulls the unresponsive man out to the car floor. Three cigarettes and a piece of foil lie beside the seat where he passed out. The worker sprays the medicine in the man's nose and slaps his chest until he heaves a breath. Minutes later the man vomits and comes to. Dazed, he walks away.

"Do I think I'm saving their lives? Yes, absolutely," the worker said. "Do I think that's going to help them in the long run? Probably not."

"I go home and I pray. I hope that this is like some sort of wake-up call for them or something," he said. "But I don't have my head in the sand thinking that it's going to be."

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, 1936 – 2023

Ex-Italian leader tarnished by scandals

By Frances D'Emilio
and Colleen Barry

Alessandra Tarantino Associated Press

BOASTFUL BILLIONAIRE
Silvio Berlusconi was Italy's longest-serving prime minister despite sex parties and fraud charges.

Silvio Berlusconi, the boastful billionaire media mogul who was Italy's longest-serving prime minister, despite scandals over sex-fueled parties and allegations of corruption, has died, Italian media reported Monday. He was 86.

Berlusconi was admitted Friday to Milan's San Raffaele Hospital, his second hospitalization in months for treatment of chronic leukemia. He also suffered over the years from heart ailments and prostate cancer and in 2020 was hospitalized for COVID-19.

Berlusconi used his television networks and immense wealth to launch a long political career, inspiring both loyalty and loathing.

To admirers, the three-time prime minister was a capable and charismatic statesman who sought to elevate Italy on the world stage. To critics, he was a populist who threatened to undermine democracy by wielding political power as a tool to enrich himself and his businesses.

His Forza Italia party was a coalition partner with current Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, a far-right leader who came to power last year.

Berlusconi's friendship with Russian President Vladimir Putin put him at odds with Meloni, a supporter of Ukraine. On Berlusconi's 86th birthday, as the war raged, Putin sent vodka to the former Italian leader, who boasted that he returned the favor by sending back Italian wine.

When Donald Trump launched his political career, many drew comparisons to Berlusconi, noting that both spent years in business before entering politics, sought to upend the existing order and grabbed attention for their over-the-top personalities and lavish lifestyles.

Meloni remembered Berlusconi "above all as a fighter," telling Italian TV "he was a man who had never been afraid to defend his beliefs."

Former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi recalled Berlusconi's divisive legacy.

"Silvio Berlusconi made history in this country. Many loved him, many hated him. All must recognize that his impact on political life, but also economics, sports and television, has been without precedent," he tweeted.

As Berlusconi aged, some derided his perpetual tan, hair transplants and live-in girlfriends who were decades younger. However, for years, he seemed untouchable, despite the personal scandals.

Criminal cases were launched but ended in dismissals when statutes of limitations ran out in Italy's slow-moving justice system or when Berlusconi succeeded on appeal. Investigations targeted his steamy "bunga bunga" parties — involving young women and minors — and his many businesses, including the soccer team AC Milan, Italy's three biggest private TV networks, magazines, a daily newspaper and advertising and film companies.

Only one investigation led to a conviction: a tax fraud case stemming from a sale of movie rights. The conviction was upheld in 2013 by Italy's top criminal court, but Berlusconi was spared prison because of his age.

He was stripped of his Senate seat and banned from running or holding public office for six years.

He stayed at the helm of Forza Italia, the center-right party he created when he entered politics in the 1990s. With no groomed successor in sight, voters started to desert it. He eventually held office again, elected to the European Parliament at age 82 and then, last year, to the Italian Senate.

Berlusconi's party was eclipsed as the dominant force on Italy's right: first by the League, led by the anti-migrant populist Matteo Salvini, then by Meloni's Brothers of Italy Party, with its roots in neo-fascism. After elections in 2022, Meloni formed a governing coalition with the help of Berlusconi and others.

Berlusconi suffered personal comedowns as well. He lost his standing as Italy's richest man, although his sprawling media and real estate holdings left him a billionaire several times over.

In 2013, guests at one of his parties included an underage Moroccan dancer who, prosecutors alleged, had sex with Berlusconi in exchange for cash and jewelry. After a trial spiced by lurid details, a Milan court initially convicted Berlusconi of paying for sex with a minor and using his office to try to cover it up. Both parties denied the allegations, and he was eventually acquitted.

The Roman Catholic Church, at times sympathetic to his conservative politics, was scandalized by his antics, and his wife of nearly 20 years divorced him, but Berlusconi was unapologetic. He insisted that voters were impressed by his brashness.

"The majority of Italians in their hearts would like to be like me and see themselves in me and in how I behave," he said in 2009, during his third and final stint as prime minister.

His second term, from 2001 to 2006, was perhaps his golden era, when he became Italy's longest-serving head of government and boosted its global profile through his friendship with President George W. Bush.

Berlusconi was born Sept. 29, 1936, in Milan, the son of a middle-class banker. He earned a law degree and started a construction company at 25.

But his astronomical wealth came from the media. In the late 1970s and 1980s, he circumvented Italy's state TV monopoly, RAI, by creating a de facto network in which local stations all showed the same programming. RAI and his Mediaset network accounted for about 90% of the national market in 2006.

His first government in 1994 collapsed after eight months when an ally who led an anti-immigrant party yanked support.

In 2008, Berlusconi bounced back for what would be his final term as prime minister. It ended abruptly in 2011, when financial markets lost faith in him.

Berlusconi was married in 1965 to Carla Dall'Oglio, with whom he had two children. He married Veronica Lario in 1990. They had three children.

D'Emilio and Barry write for the Associated Press.

BUSINESS

Bebeto Matthews Associated Press

ON JULY 12, a pay rate of $17.96 an hour will take effect, up from the current average of $7.09 an hour, New York City said. That minimum wage is set to rise to $19.96 by April 2025. Above, a food delivery worker in April.

Pay hike for app-based workers

New York City is the first in the nation to establish a minimum rate for those who deliver food.

By Wyatte Grantham-Philips

New York City will implement a minimum pay rate for food delivery workers on apps such as Uber Eats and DoorDash — marking a first for the U.S., officials said.

The new rule could nearly triple average earnings for the city's app-based delivery workers in the coming years. New York's more than 60,000 delivery workers make an average of $7.09 an hour, according to the city.

But on July 12, a pay rate of $17.96 an hour will take effect — and that minimum wage is set to rise to $19.96 by April 2025, the city said. For years following, the minimum pay rate will be adjusted annually for inflation.

"Our delivery workers have consistently delivered for us — now, we are delivering for them," Mayor Eric Adams said in a Sunday statement announcing the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection's new rule. "This new minimum pay rate, up by almost $13.00/hour, will guarantee these workers and their families can earn a living, access greater economic stability, and help keep our city's legendary restaurant industry thriving."

Ligia Guallpa, executive director of the Brooklyn-based Worker's Justice Project, called the move a "historic moment for New York City" — as labor organizers across the country call for better pay and improved working conditions for gig workers, who often face unreliable earnings and few safety protections.

"This rule will set the pay floor for all the essential deliveristas who work tirelessly — whether through a pandemic, a snowstorm or wildfire smoke — and who have been denied a living wage for far too long," Gullapa said in a statement. "While there's still work to do, a minimum pay rate for food delivery workers will transform the lives of thousands of families across the city and deliver long overdue justice for deliveristas."

While Guallpa and others applauded New York's new minimum pay rate, food delivery services including Uber Eats and DoorDash have pushed back, arguing that the decision could have unintended consequences for app workers.

"The city is lying to delivery workers — they want apps to fund this increase by eliminating jobs and reducing tipping while forcing the remaining workers to deliver orders faster," Uber Eats spokesperson Josh Gold said in a statement.

Grubhub, which noted that it believes the city "had good intentions," also expressed disappointment and similar concerns over the rule.

DoorDash said it may pursue legal action.

"Given the broken process that resulted in such an extreme final minimum pay rule, we will continue to explore all paths forward — including litigation — to ensure we continue to best support Dashers and protect the flexibility that so many delivery workers like them depend on," DoorDash said in a statement.

Under the new rule, food delivery services will have some flexibility in how they pay new workers. Apps can choose whether they want to pay delivery workers per trip, per hour worked or according to another policy created by the company — as long as earnings meet the minimum rate, the city said.

With the $17.96 minimum rate taking effect next month, apps that pay workers for all the time they are on call (connected to the app) will be required to pay about 30 cents a minute, not including tips. For apps that compensate only for trip time, that rate will be about 50 cents a minute, not including tips, in 2023 — and is expected to rise to 53 cents a minute in April 2024 and 55 cents a minute in April 2025, plus inflation adjustments.

The future rate of 55 cents a minute could add up to $33 an hour of trip time — but drivers are rarely able to spend all of their shifts on trips. The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection found that workers spend about 60% of their working time engaged in trips and 40% on call.

The implementation of the minimum pay rate follows a law passed by the New York City Council in 2021, which required the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to study the working conditions and pay of app-based food delivery workers and establish a minimum rate.

The study was published last year, and this week's final rule was established after a public comment period. The minimum wage takes into account that app-based workers are classified as independent contractors — who often must pay out of pocket for expenses and do not have workers' compensation insurance or paid time off.

Supporters of the new minimum pay rate include Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and labor organizers.

The Justice for App Workers coalition called the move a "step forward" but said that further protections are needed, pointing to the potential of workers being locked out of their delivery apps while on the job.

"As it stands, the way the city designed this raise could lead to lockouts, which could leave us worse off than we are now. If a worker is locked out of an app without warning, they just won't be able to make enough money that day. It doesn't have to be this way," Justice for App Workers said in a statement.

"This is a good measure, but we also need assurances that ensure delivery workers will not be locked out at a moment's notice," the coalition said. "These jobs are all we have to cover paying our rent and feeding our families."

Grantham-Philips writes for the Associated Press.

MARKET ROUNDUP

S&P 500 reaches its highest level since April 2022

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	34,066.33	+189.55	+0.56	+2.77
S&P 500	4,338.93	+40.07	+0.93	+13.01
Nasdaq composite	13,461.92	+202.78	+1.53	+28.62
S&P 400	2,555.15	+12.78	+0.50	+5.13
Russell 2000	1,873.21	+7.50	+0.40	+6.36
EuroStoxx 50	4,314.83	+25.04	+0.58	+13.78
Nikkei (Japan)	32,434.00	+168.83	+0.52	+24.29
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,404.31	+14.36	+0.07	-1.91

Associated Press

Wall Street climbed Monday ahead of a big week for central banks around the world, vaulting the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its highest level in more than a year.

The benchmark index rose 40.07 points, or 0.9%, to 4,338.93 and its highest close since April 2022. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 189.55 points, or 0.6%, to 34,066.33, while the Nasdaq composite rallied 202.78 points, or 1.5%, to close at 13,461.92.

The U.S. stock market has been cruising on hopes that the economy will avoid a recession and the Federal Reserve may soon take it easier on its interest rate hikes. Traders are betting that the Fed will hold rates steady at its next meeting, which concludes Wednesday. That would be the first time it hasn't raised rates at a meeting in more than a year.

Investors see high-growth stocks as some of the biggest beneficiaries of lower rates, and they led the market Monday. Tech stocks alone accounted for more than half of the S&P 500's rise, powered by gains of at least 1.5% for both Microsoft and Apple.

Cruise operator Carnival rode a 12.5% upswell as analysts upgraded its stock on signs that demand remains steady for the industry and that pricing is holding up.

It helped overshadow losses elsewhere in the market, including an 11.8% fall for Nasdaq, the exchange company that's pushing more into technology. It said it would buy Adenza, a risk management and regulatory software provider, for $10.5 billion in cash and stock.

A halt or a pause in rate increases would give the economy and financial markets some breathing room.

The Fed has pushed rates to their highest level since 2007 in hopes of driving down inflation, and the increases have helped cause high-profile U.S. bank failures and a months-long contraction in the manufacturing industry.

This week will also see the latest updates on inflation across the economy. On Tuesday, economists expect a report to show that prices for consumers were 4.1% higher in May than a year earlier. That's way above the Fed's target of 2% inflation, but it would be down from 4.9% inflation in April and a peak of more than 9% last June.

Because prices were already much higher a year ago thanks to the worst inflation in 40 years, further increases in coming months may not appear quite so dramatic.

"While incoming data point to resilience in activity and stickiness in inflation, the Fed appears to want additional time to monitor policy lags and regional bank stress," Michael Gapen and other economists wrote in a BofA Global Research report.

They see a June pause by the Fed as a close call. Recent surprise hikes by central banks in Canada and Australia show a hike could still happen, but Gapen said the Fed doesn't usually raise rates when the widespread assumption on Wall Street is for a hold. That may change if Tuesday's inflation report comes in hotter than expected.

Besides the Fed, central banks in Europe and Japan will also be meeting this week on interest rates.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 3.73% from 3.74% late Friday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, fell to 4.57% from 4.60%.

In stock markets abroad, European indexes were modestly higher after Switzerland's UBS said it had completed its takeover of embattled rival Credit Suisse in a government-arranged rescue combining the country's two largest banks to safeguard Switzerland's reputation as a global financial center and choke off market turmoil.

6,000-plus Reddit groups go dark to protest fee hikes

The social networking forum is charging third-party apps more to use its data trove.

By Helen Li

More than 6,000 communities on the social networking forum Reddit are going dark for 48 hours starting Monday in protest of a fee increase for developers that use the site's data.

Popular discussion threads, known as subreddits — including r/music, r/art, r/videos, r/gaming, r/science and r/funny — have been set to private mode and some will close indefinitely. Other communities are joining the growing list.

"Closed Indefinitely for Reddit API Policy Change Protest — The musical community of reddit," a message says on the r/music page, a community to discuss all things music-related.

Reddit recently increased fees for third-party developers to access its API, or application programming interface. One such company called Apollo, which operates a Reddit browser app for iOS and iPadOS, has said that under the new fee model it would have to pay potentially more than $20 million a year to continue operating.

"Apollo will close down on June 30th. Reddit's recent decisions and actions have unfortunately made it impossible for Apollo to continue. Thank you so, so much for all the support over the years," Apollo founder Christian Selig said on Twitter.

Reddit, which filed paperwork with the Securities and Exchange Commission in December 2021 for an initial public offering that has since stalled, is following moves from companies such as Twitter to increase fees in an effort to monetize more of its platform.

Reddit founder and Chief Executive Steve Huffman articulated the shift in a New York Times interview published in April.

"The Reddit corpus of data is really valuable," Huffman said. "But we don't need to give all of that value to some of the largest companies in the world for free."

Many companies such as OpenAI and Microsoft have used Reddit conversations in developing and training large text-generated language models for new AI technology such as ChatGPT. Huffman has stated that this data "crawling" is not returning value to Reddit's users.

"Reddit needs to be a self-sustaining business, and to do that, we can no longer subsidize commercial entities that require large-scale data use," Huffman said in a Reddit Ask-Me-Anything about changes to API, noting that Reddit has not made a profit yet.

Photo Illustration by Mateusz Slodkowski SOPA Images / LightRocket

"THE REDDIT corpus of data is really valuable" and should be monetized, CEO Steve Huffman has said.

FTC moves to block Microsoft's purchase of Activision Blizzard

By Brian Contreras

The Federal Trade Commission is moving to block tech giant Microsoft from acquiring the gaming powerhouse Activision Blizzard, a spokesperson for the agency said.

"We have filed a request for a temporary restraining order to prevent them from closing while review continues," the FTC spokesperson said, citing reports that the two companies could close the deal soon.

"We welcome the opportunity to present our case in federal court," Brad Smith, Microsoft's vice chair and president, said in a statement emailed to The Times. "We believe accelerating the legal process in the U.S. will ultimately bring more choice and competition to the market."

In early 2022, Microsoft Chief Executive Satya Nadella announced a plan to buy Activision Blizzard — the Santa Monica maker of popular gaming franchises including "Call of Duty" and "World of Warcraft" — for $68.7 billion.

That push came after a protracted series of scandals in which Activision Blizzard employees alleged that the company, run by CEO Bobby Kotick, harbored a hostile, sexist, discriminatory workplace.

California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing filed a lawsuit against the video game maker, and some employees sued.

A settlement with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission led Activision to establish an $18-million fund for workers who experienced sexual harassment or discrimination at the company, among other types of workplace misconduct. The company denied all wrongdoing. Nadella has expressed ambitions of changing the company's culture.

The FTC's latest move "is a welcome update and one that accelerates the legal process," Kotick said in a blog post Monday. "Our excellent legal team has been preparing for this move for more than a year, and we're ready to present our case to a federal judge who can evaluate the transaction on the merits."

Late last year, the FTC said it would seek to block the acquisition, saying that a merger would harm competition in the gaming market.

Microsoft's bid to buy the gaming company came amid a wider acquisition spree by the Redmond, Wash., corporation and a crackdown on tech mergers by FTC Chair Lina Khan.

Under the Biden appointee's leadership, the FTC has blocked mergers between Nvidia and SoftBank Group's Arm Ltd. as well as Lockheed Martin and Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings.

This year, the Microsoft-Activision deal cleared regulatory hurdles in both Japan and Britain.

"Microsoft and Activision Blizzard have represented in the past that they cannot close their deal due to antitrust reviews of the transaction in other jurisdictions," the FTC spokesperson said in an email. "But Microsoft and Activision have not provided assurances that they will maintain that position."

Some experts criticize water conservation efforts

[**Water,** from A1]

or major water-use drivers such as climate.

"Seven percent is still an impressive number given that it happened in less than two years, and that it's on top of the water savings that the state has maintained since the last drought," Ely said. "And so I think what we see over the last decade is really a conservation success story."

But some experts say the results are evidence that more could have been done.

"The numbers are disappointing, given they're just under half of what was asked for," said Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, a water think tank.

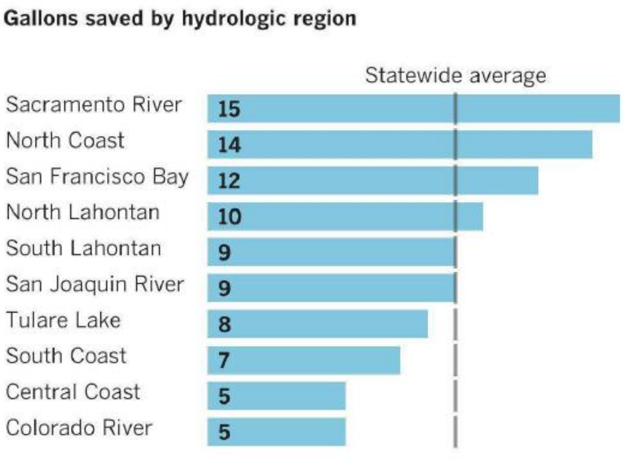
A 2022 report from the institute found that Californians could reduce their water use by 30% to 48% by adopting a host of technologies, efficiency standards and low-water use landscaping. Indoor use could be as low as 25 to 35 gallons per person per day, Cooley said.

She attributed the state's overall lackluster response to the governor's voluntary call, and said the messaging was inconsistent and often opaque about the severity of the situation.

"I think that it was potentially a recipe for disaster," Cooley said. "If it had been another dry winter, we would have really wished we had gone to mandatory [restrictions] last year because it would help us conserve the limited water that we had, and would make it stretch that much further."

Gallons saved per day

Between July 2021 and March of this year, Californians reduced residential water use by about 9 gallons per person per day.



State and regional figures are population-weighted averages of individual urban water suppliers. Excludes agricultural use.

Times analysis, California Water Resources Control Board

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

Still, the effort appeared to work better in some areas than others. The South Coast region, which includes Los Angeles and half the state's population, cut water use by 6%, or about 7 fewer gallons per person per day, the analysis found.

In June 2022, as the drought deepened, the region's massive water wholesaler, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, ordered unprecedented restrictions for areas dependent on the State Water Project, a vast network of canals and pipelines that delivers water from Northern California to farmlands and cities to the south.

The order was largely a response to slashed allocations from the state, and included a 35% reduction in water use for nearly 7 million people in parts of Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

The communities were able to "cut their water use enough to stretch the available water supplies for nine months, until restrictions were lifted in March," said Brad Coffey, manager of MWD's Water Resource Management group.

Although the region succeeded in stretching scarce supplies, Coffey noted that operating under emergency restrictions is considered a last resort and "not a sign of success."

"We have been working for years to prepare for a changed climate, but these changes are coming even sooner than predicted, and we must move fast to adapt," he said.

The agency is working toward more sustained reductions in water use through investments in new infrastructure and local supplies, and is encouraging more water-efficient landscapes, irrigation systems and indoor plumbing and appliances, he said.

In response to the MWD's order, one of its largest customers, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, opted to place its entire service area of about 4 million people under two-day-a-week watering limits in an effort to stay at or below a volumetric allocation during the drought.

The effort was successful, according to the DWP.

"LADWP, through the tireless efforts of our customers and staff, was able to stay below the MWD volumetric allocation every month it was in place from June 2022 through March 2023," spokesperson Mia Rose-Wong said in an email.

However, the DWP did not come close to the 15% reduction requested by Newsom, with cumulative savings of 5%, or 5 gallons per person per day, the analysis found.

Rose-Wong said customers have made aggressive efforts toward efficiency over the last three decades, so "it is getting progressively harder for our customers to reduce" daily gallons per person.

"Yet, we're proud of our customers' response in diligently maintaining their water-efficient habits, as water use has dropped by over 30% in the past 15 years," Rose-Wong said.

The DWP uses a 12-month rolling average to track its savings in order to account for changes in population and weather throughout the year, she said. L.A.'s 12-month rolling average for residential, commercial and industrial users went from 113 gallons per person per day in July 2021 to "below 105" gallons in March. For comparison, the same 12-month rolling average was 126 gallons statewide, she said.

Not all of the Los Angeles area was as successful, however.

El Segundo used 25% more water between July 2021 and March, more than any other district in the state. City officials said the high consumption was largely due to a massive sewage spill at the Hyperion sewage treatment plant in 2021. The spill resulted in the loss of production of recycled water, which had to be replaced with potable water for several months.

The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District in far Northern California was technically the top-performing district in the state, reducing its water use by 41%. However, General Manager John Friedenbach said the numbers were somewhat skewed because its largest water user, an electricity plant, went off line in 2022. The rest of the district's savings were "pretty average," he said.

The next biggest saver in the state, Healdsburg, a city in Sonoma County, saw a 35% reduction. Healdsburg has long been touted as an example of efficient water savings, achieving significant reductions through household water use caps, a recycled water hauling program, a near-total ban on outdoor irrigation and other conservation efforts.

Although the wet winter offered California a much-needed reprieve, experts and officials said now is not the time for residents to ease up. While bouts of extreme precipitation are becoming more frequent, the region will continue to grow hotter and drier overall because of climate change.

"People might be wondering why we should be worrying about saving when Tulare Lake has re-formed, and I think it's really just being aware that we are facing these long-term challenges," said Ely, of the state water board.

She noted that hotter and drier conditions could diminish 10% of existing water supplies by 2040.

"And so all of the water-saving habits that we have cultivated over the last decade are going to continue to serve us in the face of long-term aridification," she said.

The state is working to roll out its new "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" framework, Ely said, which will establish unique goals for its more than 400 urban water retail suppliers and help drive long-term savings across the state, among other efforts.

The state Legislature is also weighing two bills that could lead to more savings, including one prohibiting the use of potable water on some decorative grasses, and another that would require nonresidential projects to transition to low-water and local native plants.

But California is also facing significant cuts from one of its water lifelines, the shrinking Colorado River, in the years ahead.

Cooley, of the Pacific Institute, said those cuts, along with projections for more arid conditions, mean maintaining efficiency and an ethos of conservation are crucial for California and the West.

"We need to still be pushing toward efficiency so that we make the best use of the resources that we now have," she said, "and to start preparing for the next drought, which could be just around the corner."

Why virus in animals ramps up risk for people

[**Coronavirus,** from A1]

not so far-fetched.

In fact, this sequence of events — a virus that jumps from animals to humans and capitalizes on gaps in our immunity — is just how most "zoonotic" outbreaks begin. It remains the most likely explanation for how a coronavirus circulating in horseshoe bats in China came to infect humans in the first place.

When a virus that has made humans sick recedes but continues to circulate within a population of animals, those creatures become what scientists call a reservoir. Within a herd, flock, clowder, pack or pod, it quietly preserves its potential to reinfect humans and rekindle outbreaks.

The virus may adapt to its animal host by flipping a few genetic switches. The result could be a pathogen that the human immune system no longer recognizes, or that causes more severe illness than the last time around.

To do real damage, animal reservoirs must be in regular contact with people. They may be livestock on farms, family pets or wildlife neighbors who leave their saliva or droppings in our yards or on hiking trails.

Whether any particular species can be said to serve as a reservoir for SARS-CoV-2 is a hotly debated question among scientists right now, said Dr. Angela Bosco-Lauth, a Colorado State University veterinarian who studies zoonotic diseases.

So far, no single species has checked off all the boxes, "which isn't to say we should call it over and stop looking," she said. "It's hard to predict. But we know that if we don't look, we won't find it."

Virologists, immunologists and wildlife scientists have shown that a few species have some of the capabilities necessary to become a reservoir.

One animal population — white-tailed deer — continues to pass SARS-CoV-2 among itself. Another — American mink — can not only be infected but also reinfected with the pandemic virus, raising the prospect that it could live on indefinitely. In both cases, studies have shown that the coronavirus is actively mutating to adapt to a new host species.

There's also the documented phenomenon of farmed mink in Denmark and pet shop hamsters in Hong Kong passing the virus back to humans.

The number of wildlife species that might harbor the virus is substantial. A group led by UC Davis geneticists found that, in addition to humans, 46 species of mammals have receptors on their cells that suggest they are vulnerable to infection with SARS-CoV-2.

The World Health Organization is so concerned that animals will become sanctuaries for the pandemic virus that it called on all member countries to conduct active surveillance of their wildlife.

LAURA UNGAR Associated Press

A WILDLIFE TEAM restrains a buck before testing it for the coronavirus last year in Grand Portage, Minn. The virus' ability to infect many animals means there's virtually no chance it will be eliminated, scientists say.

Cervids — the family of animals that includes deer — exist in various forms all over the world and are considered prime candidates for providing a coronavirus reservoir. Other leading contenders are apes and "Old World primates" — macaques, baboons, gorillas and chimpanzees — whose genetic similarity to humans makes them susceptible to infection, and whose exposure to humans around the world is substantial.

The only species in which scientists have documented continued spread of the pandemic virus is white-tailed deer, the most abundant large mammal in North America and a denizen of backyards and wooded areas across much of the country.

In places in the U.S. where the animals are densely concentrated, at least a third are believed to have been infected with the virus at some point during the pandemic. (Mule deer, which are more common across the West, have been shown to sustain and transmit coronavirus infections as well.)

A study published in January found that white-tailed deer continued to harbor the Alpha, Delta and Gamma coronavirus variants long after they had stopped circulating in the U.S. population. The fact that deer populations could keep these variants alive and flourishing even after they had left humans is seen as a strong sign that deer might well serve as reservoirs for the pandemic virus.

Deer harvested by hunters across New York state yielded other surprises: As the virus passed through herds, it took on new mutations, including several in the spike protein that it uses as a key to enter and infect cells.

Jeff Bowman, a wildlife scientist for the province of Ontario, Canada, is the senior author of research that documented the discovery in wild deer not only of a virus with a record 76 mutations, but also a "spillback" transmission of another strain from a deer to a human. Still, he acknowledged that whether deer have become a reservoir for the SARS-CoV-2 virus "remains an open question at the moment."

In human populations, the pandemic virus flipped genetic switches often, mostly in ways that were neutral or that made it less threatening. But as it settles in among new host populations, it may well evolve in different ways.

"When they get in, they're not subtle," said Washington State University molecular virologist Michael Letko, who has studied how members of the coronavirus family adapt to new hosts. "They're evading immune responses and trying to survive."

That puts enormous pressure on the virus' latching mechanism — its spike protein — to embrace any mutations that help it get the job done. Whether those mutations also make the virus more virulent is "just the luck of the draw," Letko said. "It's the unknown that makes it kind of tricky."

The Canadian government has kept tabs on the virus in its deer and other wildlife populations by piggybacking its surveillance on an existing program to detect chronic wasting disease and rabies. Hunters and trappers have been enlisted to bring their harvests to researchers for testing, and wildlife crews collect animal carcasses in woods and scrape up roadkill to round out the picture.

In the United States, the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services has been sampling white-tailed deer in the wild since November 2021 and is expected to release new findings soon.

So far, there's no evidence that the mutations detected after the virus' sojourn among white-tailed deer in New York made it more dangerous in any way. But the effect of any changes might not become evident until an infected deer passed it on to a human.

Finlay Maguire, an infectious disease genomic epidemiologist at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, is one of the Canadian researchers monitoring the spread of SARS-CoV-2 in white-tailed deer there, and he has not detected worrying genetic changes — so far.

"We haven't seen signs of strong selective pressure that would make [the virus] better suited to humans," he said.

There's other reassuring research as well: Researchers have found no reason to believe birds can catch the coronavirus. That's important because birds flock, fly and migrate, and are raised as livestock as well. All those attributes make them exceptionally prolific spreaders of pathogens capable of infecting humans. (Case in point: influenza.)

Researchers have also ruled out the ability of pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, alpacas, rabbits and horses to sustain a SARS-CoV-2 infection — a relief considering that these livestock animals are in routine contact with human caregivers.

Bosco-Lauth of Colorado State said the animals that live closest to humans — dogs and cats — can become infected but are unlikely to serve as effective reservoirs for the virus. Dogs may lick our faces and cats will gladly sneeze in them. But neither has shown it is capable of efficiently transmitting the virus, either to their human housemates or others of their species.

She added that researchers have yet to find a species that, when infected, excretes much live virus in its feces. Much has been made of the discovery of infected rats living near New York sewers. But if they can't transmit the pathogen through their droppings, rats and other wildlife are unlikely to infect humans very efficiently.

"There aren't a whole lot of wildlife species I'm really worried about," Bosco-Lauth said.

There's one species, however, that continues to raise concerns among scientists: *Homo sapiens*.

"COVID-19 is still circulating in the human population, and people are getting infected and reinfected repeatedly," said Graham Belsham, a Copenhagen University virologist who studied the spread of the pandemic virus in farmed mink in Denmark. "The virus hasn't gone away, so people are probably the biggest threat to other people for years to come."

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EDITORIAL

The GOP's reckless rhetoric on indictment

The charges against Trump for willful retention of classified documents are deadly serious.

Evan Vucci Associated Press

SUPPORTERS OF former President Trump gather outside his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on Sunday.

The arraignment on Tuesday of Donald J. Trump will be a sad day for the country, and not only because a federal grand jury has issued a 37-count indictment of the former president that William Barr, Trump's former attorney general, called "very, very damning." As shocking as the charges against Trump are, it's equally dismaying that some prominent Republicans are rallying around Trump or impugning the investigation.

Trump was charged with willful retention of national defense information; conspiracy to obstruct justice; withholding a document or record; corruptly concealing a document or record; concealing a document in a federal investigation; a scheme to conceal; and false statements and representations. The grand jury also indicted a Trump aide, Waltine "Walt" Nauta, on the same charges except for willful retention of national defense information. According to the indictment, Trump had Nauta move 64 boxes out of a storage room at his Mar-a-Lago estate so Trump could go through the contents, and later returned only 30 boxes to the storage room. The indictment alleges that this information wasn't disclosed to a Trump lawyer.

The indictment, which includes a photograph of documents stored in a chandeliered bathroom, provides grist for comedians. But the charges against Trump are deadly serious. Even if the former president didn't attempt to use sensitive national security documents to make money or for other nefarious purposes, the recklessness and defiance described in the indictment are shocking.

In announcing the indictment, special counsel Jack Smith rightly emphasized that "the defendants in this case must be presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law." But given the seriousness of the allegations, it was vital that charges be filed despite Trump's status as a candidate for the presidency in 2024. No one should be able to immunize himself or herself from prosecution simply by running for president.

Notwithstanding that reality, prominent Republicans have rushed to defend Trump or undermine the validity of the prosecution.

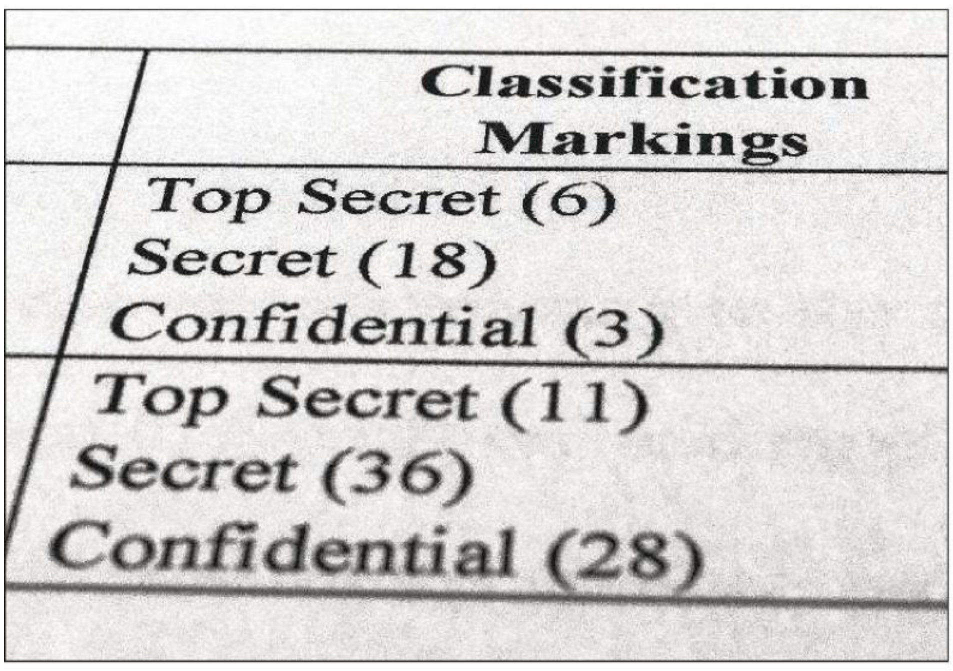
House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), who has demeaned himself by toadying to Trump in the past, tweeted this last week, before the indictment was even unsealed: "Today is indeed a dark day for the United States of America. It is unconscionable for a president to indict the leading candidate opposing him. Joe Biden kept classified documents for decades. I, and every American who believes in the rule of law, stand with President Trump against this grave injustice. House Republicans will hold this brazen weaponization of power accountable."

Where to begin? Biden didn't indict Trump. A grand jury did, after an investigation by a special counsel appointed by Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland to ensure that the inquiry would be apolitical. President Biden, it turns out, did retain some classified documents after he left the vice presidency (and is also being investigated by a special counsel). But there is no evidence that Biden has engaged in the sort of resistance Trump is accused of. Finally, McCarthy's threat to "hold this brazen weaponization of power accountable" is a reminder that the Republican majority he uneasily presides over has functioned for some time as an unofficial Trump defense team.

Barr — who was rightly criticized for acting in Trump's interests as attorney general — offered a scathing refutation of the notion that Trump is a victim of a political prosecution. "It's a very detailed indictment. And it's very, very damning," Barr told Fox News on Sunday. "And this idea of presenting Trump as a victim here, a victim of a witch hunt, is ridiculous. Yes, he's been a victim in the past. Yes, his adversaries have obsessively pursued him with phony claims, and I've been at his side defending against them when he is a victim. But this is much different. He's not a victim here. He was totally wrong that he had the right to have those documents."

Whether Trump is criminally culpable will be decided by a jury. But Republicans who portray the former president as a victim — or engage in reckless rhetoric about possible retribution against prosecutors — are disserving the country. The riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, illustrates the danger when Trump's most crazed supporters act on their delusions. Republican politicians will be playing with fire if they encourage similar conspiracy theories about this indictment.

LETTERS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Top Secret (6)

Secret (18)

Confidential (3)

Top Secret (11)

Secret (36)

Confidential (28)

Jon Elswick Associated Press

A PORTION of the 37-count federal indictment against Donald Trump. The charges involve his handling of classified information after leaving the presidency.

Focus on the law, not Trump

Re "Trump ridicules his federal indictment," June 11

The Trump playbook is consistent, boring and tired. It's best summed up by the old adage that you argue the facts if you have the facts, you argue the law if you have the law, and you pound the table if you have neither.

Former President Trump has forever pounded the table. Attack the process, attack the judge (and he will if Judge Aileen Cannon rules against him in any way), attack the prosecutor, attack the Justice Department.

He does this because his federal indictment and coming trial are not within his control. He must now play according to the rules that we and he, as citizens, must obey. He can't solve his problem with money or a pardon, so he rants and raves.

It is tough to ignore Trump's behavior, but I suggest law-abiding citizens do just that. Respect the law and the process, and sit back and let this play out.

Maurice M. Garcia, Newbury Park

No doubt Trump's burgeoning legal troubles have given him cause to regret many unforced errors.

None of which may come back to haunt him more than a certain notorious quip about his fame enabling him to grope women without their consent, or to shoot someone in the middle of 5th Avenue without losing support. Those arrogant sentiments will surely come to light in the course of Trump's upcoming federal trial.

How might any jury buy Trump's claim that a former president is not subject to federal laws prohibiting unauthorized retention of classified documents?

Sarah S. Williams
Santa Barbara

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Surely the public must see the similarities between the Trump case and the case against Jack Teixeira, the 21-year-old Air National Guardsman, who sits in jail awaiting trial for leaking classified documents.

Trump deserves to be treated no better and no worse than Teixeira. Do not allow him to make a mockery of the judicial process that decent Americans hold dear.

Rochelle Popowitz
Los Angeles

::

One thing we are learning about the indictment of Trump regarding the handling of classified documents is that very few Republicans understand the criminal justice system in this country, and Republican leaders seem to be exploiting their ignorance for their personal gain as well.

Can someone educate them that Trump was indicted by a grand jury, not by President Biden?

Alan Coles
Long Beach

'Slap in the face to Catholics'

Re " 'Save the children' has an all-too-familiar ring to it," column, July 10

While the overall thrust of Anita Chabria's argument is not to be denied, at least by me, there are parts of it that I have mixed feelings about.

I do feel the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence represent a slap in the face to Catholics who are sincere in their faith. I'm not Catholic, but any time a group uses costumes that deliberately satirize another group that is generally favorably looked on, I think it is wrong.

Which brings me to my second point. Chabria states the Catholic Church "is facing bankruptcies across California as the financial toll of sexual abuse lawsuits mounts." What does that have to do with the nuns being satirized by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence or the offense it gives to ordinary Catholics?

John Snyder
Newbury Park

::

We all want to protect our children. But what those shouting "keep our children innocent" really mean is "keep our children ignorant."

Those with ignorant minds are much easier to control. Our politicians have learned that. Expanding children's minds enables them to work with others and not fear diversity.

During prehistoric times, children were taught to fear those in the next cave and avoid them. Happily most of us have progressed beyond the cave.

Marcy Bregman
Agoura Hills

The good works that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence do and the statement by Sister Roma that the organization does not ridicule anyone cannot mask the fact that they do mock and disrespect Catholic nuns in the process.

The Sisters even state on their website that they use "irreverent" (defined as "showing a lack of respect for people or things that are generally taken seriously") wit. They should drop their Sisters act and say with a straight face their intentions.

As Chabria mentions, the Catholic Church deservedly has it own sins to answer for. But they are not the result of what nuns have done.

In addition, the Catholic Church is the largest private provider of HIV/AIDS care — and the nuns being disrespected provide much of that care.

Paul Burns
Granada Hills

::

Ultraconservatives have tried every means to demonize the LGBTQ+ community.

They have enacted laws, staged demonstrations of outrage, told lies and banned books. In Temecula, the school board chose to reject a history textbook that mentioned Harvey Milk, a gay civil rights leader.

Inciting homophobia guarantees that bigotry will continue to blossom at the expense of reason and acceptance.

Barbara Hubbs
Long Beach

Did the court rescue itself?

Re "Why the Supreme Court's voting rights decision is such a shock," Opinion, June 9

Is this another "switch in time that saved nine"? Perhaps it is a stretch to compare last week's surprise ruling on the Voting Rights Act to a decision from 1937, but I see a comparison.

On June 8, the court upheld the broad reach of the Voting Rights Act in Alabama, which could well result in the election of a Black Democrat to Congress. It could also result in the Democrats regaining control of the House.

Some Democrats have been urging President Biden to expand the court as a way to undo the control that conservative justices have been given recently. This decision, however, might take pressure off Biden to do so.

As for the "switch" mentioned earlier, in a 1937 case on the minimum wage, conservative Justice Owen Roberts changed sides in a narrow 5-4 ruling. It took the pressure off President Franklin D. Roosevelt to pack the court with liberal justices more amenable to his New Deal.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

::

UC Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says the court "reaffirmed that the Voting Rights Act prevents racial discrimination in drawing election districts." But he praises a decision that requires Alabama to draw another majority-Black congressional district.

From our founding, the power to redistrict has created much mischief, whether partisan or racial. Now, the Voting Rights Act is being used to ensure not that all eligible citizens can vote, but to insist on a particular result.

That is not democracy.

William N. Hoke
Manhattan Beach

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Trump-appointed judge is an obstacle for prosecutors

There are at least five ways Aileen Cannon can slow down or impair the criminal case against the former president

HARRY LITMAN

When federal officials decided to bring the most important prosecution in the Department of Justice's history in Florida rather than Washington, D.C., they knew they were taking some risks.

One of these is a generally less sophisticated and favorable set of judges, the most worrisome by far being Aileen Cannon.

Cannon is the Trump appointee who allowed the former president to temporarily derail the classified records investigation with a civil action challenging the search of his Mar-a-Lago estate. Her rulings on that episode were hopelessly mangled and result-oriented, drawing two harsh reversals by the conservative U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which finally put an end to the misadventure.

Sure enough, through an apparently random process, the nightmare scenario appears to have become a reality: Cannon is the putative presiding judge in United States vs. Trump.

Some have already called on Cannon to recuse herself from the case based on her apparent past partiality. Recusal of judges is governed by a number of rules, starting with a provision that instructs a judge to step aside from "any proceeding in which [her] impartiality might reasonably be questioned." That directive is meant to apply even if Cannon sincerely believes she is up to the job.

It would arguably make sense for Cannon to recuse herself even from her personal vantage point: She is in a can't-win situation in which her already abysmal professional reputation is likely only to suffer more. But based on her record in the previous case of doubling down even after humiliating reversals, it's hard to have confidence that she will willingly step aside.

If Cannon does remain on the case, there are ways — both formal and informal — for the 11th Circuit Court to remove her from it. Unless and until that happens, her presence poses concrete risks of warping the workings of the justice system when the country urgently needs it to be above reproach.

Here are five areas in which Cannon, more than almost any other judge in the country, could cause terrible mischief for prosecutors.

■ Timing: Special counsel Jack Smith emphasized the importance of a speedy trial in his short remarks last week, and under normal circumstances this case could be tried by next summer. The most worrisome prospect of Cannon's assignment is that she will indulge Trump's familiar delaying tactics and allow the trial to be put off until after the 2024 election. That would be a grave disservice to voters, who deserve to know whether Trump is guilty as charged when they cast their ballots.

■ Jury selection: There are no doubt potential jurors in the Southern District of Florida who would never vote to convict Trump. The court makes the ultimate determination as to whether a juror is able to put her preconceptions aside and apply the law. Given her demonstrated sympathies for the former president, Cannon could end up seating ardent Trump supporters whom other judges would strike, leading to a hung jury.

■ Evidentiary rulings: The judge could make any number of evidentiary rulings that would make conviction a steeper climb. The most important would involve former Trump attorney Evan Corcoran's notes and accounts of statements by both the former president and his alleged co-conspirator, Walt Nauta. Corcoran's testimony as to the defendants' statements should be admissible under the federal rules of evidence, but Cannon could limit or prevent their use.

■ Jury instructions: Judges have considerable leeway in guiding the jury's deliberations. The last stage of a trial before closing arguments is an instruction conference in which the judge decides high-stakes wordsmithing disputes between the parties. And as with evidentiary questions, an erroneous ruling that leads to acquittal can't be revisited, because double jeopardy protections would prevent a retrial.

■ Trump's public comments: The day after the indictment was unsealed, Trump proclaimed that the "ridiculous and baseless indictment of me by the Biden administration's weaponized Department of Injustice will go down as among the most horrific abuses of power in the history of our country." Online forums have already seen a subsequent spike in violent rhetoric. In the criminal case against Trump in New York, the presiding judge immediately warned the defendant to watch his public remarks. If Cannon declines to curb Trump's vitriol, he could prejudice the jury pool, endanger government and court personnel and inject chaos into a trial that we urgently need to be dignified and orderly.

There are nearly 700 federal district court judges in the country. Of all of them, Cannon is the first whose fairness might reasonably be questioned. And of all cases in the federal court system, none calls for a judge and a process that inspire public confidence more than this one. It's of paramount importance that this case be assigned to another judge — any other judge.

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast. @harrylitman

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Harry How Getty Images

BROOKS KOEPKA will play the U.S. Open, held in L.A. in the shadow of a controversial deal between rival golf organizations.

The PGA-LIV merger is only part of the problem with golf

Especially in California, the exclusive sport relies heavily on public support and property tax breaks.

By Ray Brescia

The recent merger of the PGA Tour and Saudi-backed LIV Golf ended a long battle between the two, typically framed as a struggle between pure, upright American values and brute economic, political and even murderous force. Many associated LIV backers with 9/11 and the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The overwhelming financial might of the billionaires backing LIV ultimately resulted in an offer the PGA leadership apparently couldn't refuse. But while many are sickened by the effort to "sportswash" Saudi bank accounts, this foreign incursion is hardly the beginning of the sport's outrages.

Golf courses have historically been places of exclusion. Segregated golf courses flourished in the South through the 1950s, and some private clubs continued to exclude women, people of color and religious minorities until much more recently.

Golf courses are also an environmental blight across the country. They treat their grounds with tons of harmful pesticides and fertilizers to maintain lawns manicured by massive, pollution-spewing mowers. Vast quantities of water help carry the chemicals into aquifers and wetlands.

Communities starved for green space and affordable housing look on as these carefully tended acres are sequestered for use only by those who can afford it. Both public and private golf courses impose significant costs on the places where they operate, costs that are almost never absorbed entirely by the players.

Golf courses rarely pay their fair share in taxes either. Many enjoy special tax exemptions that allow them to pay a small fraction of the proportionate burden borne by neighboring properties, particularly in California.

The Los Angeles Country Club, which will host the U.S. Open starting Thursday, is an egregious example. It is a beneficiary of state constitutional provisions that limit golf course property taxes on top of the breaks conferred by California's notorious Proposition 13. Its roughly 300 acres amid some of the area's most expensive real estate are assessed for tax purposes at some $18 million. That's the case even though the area's median home price is $2 million.

> Communities with limited access to affordable housing or open space look on as these carefully tended acres are sequestered for use only by those who can afford the price of admission.

If the club were instead occupied by hundreds of homes, they would easily be worth 30 times the assessed value. Even if they never set foot on the course, Southern California residents are effectively underwriting its continued operations.

That's only the beginning of the disproportionate public investment in the sport. Los Angeles County operates no fewer than 20 public golf courses, the nation's largest such system. California's public golf courses occupy enough land to build 375,000 homes at moderate density, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. In 2022, an Assembly committee killed a bill that would have made it slightly easier to develop housing on some of that vast acreage.

Millions of Americans who enjoy watching and playing the sport have the right to do so. But the truth is that all Americans are paying the price for the continued operation of golf courses across the country. Many of them probably would not freely choose to underwrite the degradation of the environment, dedicate millions of acres of valuable land to a very narrow and exclusive use or subsidize that use with huge tax breaks. Do those Americans get a choice?

The LIV-PGA merger suggests golf is big business. So why are we subsidizing it? Let golf courses absorb the true costs they impose on communities. If municipalities want to continue to make public courses available at an affordable price to people of lower incomes, they should at least tax the private courses at equitable rates to help make that possible.

Communities generally do not subsidize polo, for example, which might explain its near extinction in the United States. Perhaps golf has more widespread support, interest and staying power than polo. The LIV-PGA mega-merger suggests that, at least for the time being, it does — and that there's still big money in Big Golf. If that's the case, it's high time American taxpayers stop subsidizing it.

Ray Brescia is a professor of law at Albany Law School. This is adapted from an article in the Ohio State Law Journal, "Course Correction: Abolition, Grand Strategy, and the Case Against Golf."

If you went after Clinton over emails, then go after Trump too

Republicans' defenses of the former president's mishandling of classified documents are growing weaker by the day.

JONAH GOLDBERG

In the wake of Donald Trump's latest indictment, two basic defenses have been offered: He did nothing wrong, and it doesn't matter that he did anything wrong.

So far, most of his defenders are more comfortable making the latter argument.

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) is one of the few exceptions. On CNN, Jordan argued that Trump did nothing wrong by keeping extremely sensitive classified information next to a toilet, among other places, because the president "can classify and he can control access to national security information however he wants."

It's based on a theory of presidential prerogatives. But it has at least one fatal flaw: Trump isn't the president. Jordan, the House Judiciary Committee chairman, sidesteps this point, saying he takes Trump "at his word" that he "mentally" declassified everything before leaving office, even though there's an actual tape of Trump saying that he didn't.

Most Republicans don't have the fortitude for such brazen Stakhanovite defenses of Comrade Trump. After all, even his former attorney general, William Barr, says the indictment is "very, very, damning" and that Trump is "toast" if even half of it is true.

The more widespread argument among Republicans is a variant of anti-anti-Trumpism. Specifically: Prosecuting Trump would be wrong because Hillary Clinton wasn't prosecuted in 2016 for her email misbehavior or because Joe Biden hasn't been prosecuted for mishandling classified documents.

Hence, the Trump loyalists insist, we have a "two-tiered" system of justice. This, of course, leaves out the fact that Biden and Clinton (and Mike Pence) cooperated with the Justice Department, while Trump is accused, in full and exhausting detail, of obstructing the investigation.

Still, I think these arguments have some merit. Some Trump defenders often overstate or misstate the facts, but I believe that Clinton's private email server scheme was outrageous, and it would have been better if FBI Director James B. Comey had recommended that she be charged instead of declining to do so.

Clinton's behavior and the Comey investigation were examples of institutional failure that laid a lot of the groundwork for the ugly politics of the last seven years, including Trump's election.

Indeed, the sorry chapter of Clinton's emails is part of a broader dysfunctional pattern in our political culture. Partisans rarely worry about the effect their behavior ultimately invites in their opponents. Politically, the process by which bad behavior becomes a bad precedent is when the other party says, "Oh, so we can do that too when we're in power."

Here's Sen. Marco Rubio, Republican of Florida, in 2016: "Hillary Clinton's actions have sent the worst message to the millions of hard-working federal employees who hold security clearances and are expected to ... abide by the rules. They don't take their oaths lightly, and we shouldn't expect any less of their leaders. ... America simply cannot afford any more Clinton drama."

Now Rubio, the vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is fine with even worse drama from Trump. He says of Trump's alleged misdeeds: "There's no allegation that there was harm done to the national security." Rubio says Trump should get a pass because indicting him would be "divisive" and invite "attacks" on American institutions.

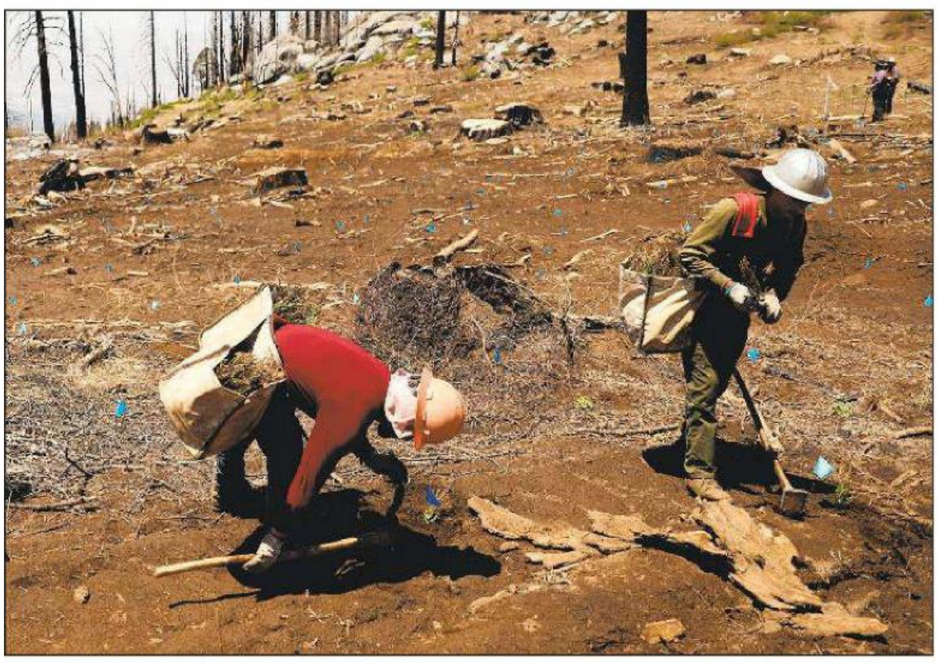
That's a standard not for the rule of law but the rule of politics. And the hazard of such thinking down the road is incalculable.

But back to "her emails." Regardless of GOP criticisms of what Clinton did a decade ago, none of it amounts to an affirmative defense of Trump.

Think of it this way: I believe it is outrageous that O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend. But that doesn't mean that when I murder someone, I get to say, "You can't send me to prison! O.J. Simpson got away with it!" The government falls short of ideals and standards all the time. That's not an argument for getting rid of ideals and standards.

This is the blind spot of Trump defenders. It elides over the very possibility that Trump is actually guilty. If you think that Clinton's behavior was comparably bad to Trump's, the reaction can't be, "So he should get away with it too." Yet that seems to be the GOP response now. Because she skirted the rules, they insist, we shouldn't have rules. Because Trump cannot clear the standard conservatives held Clinton to, we shouldn't have standards. Where does that leave us?

@JonahDispatch



SEQUOIA seedlings are planted at Alder Creek Grove. Some of the trees could grow to be among the world's largest — if they survive the next few decades.

IN THE Castle fire, seed cones — which would ordinarily spawn new life — were incinerated. Such devastation was once unheard of but is now more frequent.

Photographs by GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

TIM BORDEN of the Save the Redwoods League stands next to a sequoia killed in the Castle fire. The behemoths, he said, "are going through an existential crisis."

Will newly planted sequoias survive?

[**Giants,** from A1]

in Sequoia National Forest. The National Park Service is drafting an environmental assessment evaluating the effects of planting seedlings in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park.

Until recently, no one thought reforestation efforts like these would be necessary to save giant sequoia groves, let alone from fire. The trees, which grow naturally only in a 60-mile band of forest on the western slopes of the Sierra, are adapted to thrive alongside flames. They have thick, armor-like bark, branches that reach above flames and cones that release seeds only in response to bursts of heat.

"There is essentially no historical record to suggest that these trees were ever killed by high-severity fire," said Borden, the league's sequoia restoration and stewardship manager.

But over the last eight years, a string of wildfires has killed scores of sequoias by consuming their entire canopy. From 2020 to 2021 alone, three fires killed up to 19% of the world's population of mature giants — statistics Borden refers to as "eradication numbers."

"That shook us all to the core," he said. "That made us realize everything that we thought about how giant sequoias reacted and were adapted to fire, that may have been true under conditions that we had 100 years ago. But not with the conditions that our forests are in today."

The Castle fire ignited amid a siege of dry lightning in the summer of 2020, less than a year after the Save the Redwoods League had purchased 530 acres in the Alder Creek Grove. For weeks, President and Chief Executive Sam Hodder anxiously monitored the fire's progression. Then, over a few hours Sept. 13, winds pushed flames over a ridge and onto the property.

Hodder knew the forest was in bad shape. For roughly a century, the landscape had been deprived of the lightning-sparked fires and cultural burning that once thinned trees and brush on a regular basis. Swaths of forest were in the process of growing back from generations of clear cutting, resulting in unnaturally dense, young and uniformly aged stands.

Scientists estimate there are now three to 10 times as many trees in the Sierra as there were in the 1900s. The increase wasn't consistent among species. Conditions favored shade-tolerant trees — white fir, red fir and incense cedar — that prefer dense canopies. These trees burn more easily than fire-adapted species such as pine and sequoia that once dominated the forest. And they can act as ladders that carry flames into the canopies of the larger trees.

On top of this, hotter, drier conditions due to climate change had resulted in scores of standing dead trees and parched vegetation that was primed to burn.

Nonetheless, Hodder was surprised by the devastation. The fire had killed 200 mature giant sequoias in the grove, 80 of them on the nonprofit's property. Rangewide, some 10,000 sequoias died.

"There's nothing that prepares you for walking through a charred landscape with these skeletons of trees that were 2,000, 3,000 years old," he said.

Staffers waited for another season to see whether natural regeneration would take place. In areas that experienced low- to moderate-intensity fire, green carpets of sequoia seedlings sprouted. But in about 225 acres of severely burned grove, nothing came up but shrubs.

The burned portion of the property is now a mosaic of dead, toothpick-like trees, or snags, interspersed with areas that have been cleared for planting.

Until recently, it was covered in snow from a historically wet winter that completely buried the yurt Borden lives in during the summer. Runoff coated hillsides with slicks of shin-deep mud and sent piles of earth crashing down onto the roads winding up the mountain.

Although the weather posed logistical challenges, it provided a rare gift to the sequoia seedlings, which need lots of water.

In mid-April, Borden began coming up once a week to measure the snow. The goal was to plant immediately after it melted, when the soil moisture was highest.

> 'There's nothing that prepares you for walking through a charred landscape with these skeletons of trees that were 2,000, 3,000 years old.'
>
> — SAM HODDER, CEO of the Save the Redwoods League

Conditions aligned in late May, setting off a tightly coordinated chain of events that was several years in the making. Borden lined up a forester and contracted with a crew that travels around the state chasing the planting season.

Seedlings were gathered from the nursery where they'd been growing in containers for a year. The seeds that spawned them were extracted from cones from the nearby Wishon sequoia grove, whose climate and elevation most closely resemble that of Alder Creek.

They were loaded into boxes and placed in cold storage at the Forest Service office in Springville, to be retrieved the morning of the planting.

The week before, graduate students from UC Berkeley had marked the spots where seedlings should be planted with small blue flags.

The planting at Alder Creek Grove is not just a preservation effort; it's also an experiment.

"Ultimately, what I want to know is how we actually can recruit or develop monarch trees," said Rob York, professor of Cooperative Extension, who is leading the study.

York plans to hold a prescribed burn in the grove in about 12 years to mimic the natural pace of fire in the forest. He wants to determine how densely giant sequoia seedlings should be planted now to ensure the grove thrives after that burn.

"Every time we do a prescribed burn, we expect the fire to kill some of the trees," he said. "But we've never done the math really to figure out, given an active fire frequency in a young stand, how many seedlings we need to start out with."

York is also testing whether dense plantings will inhibit the growth of shrubs that could crowd out young trees.

This most closely resembles how giant sequoias regenerate naturally. Each mature tree can produce 3 billion to 4 billion seeds over the course of its lifetime, and after low- to moderate-intensity fire opens cones, seedlings sprout up in thick mats. This appears to be an adaptation to the fact that many young trees won't make it.

Young sequoias can be killed by thirst and by fire. The trees don't develop the classic fire-resistant characteristics — thick bark that protects the inner cambium and self-pruning that sees them shed lower branches — until they reach about 500 years old.

After that happens, giant sequoias are killed mostly by old age. At least that's how it used to work, Borden said as he stood in front of a gnarled trunk several stories high. The top half of the tree had fallen to the ground beside it. He estimates it was about 2,000 years old when the Castle fire burned it from the inside.

"That tree actually was still burning a year after the fire," he said. "We were seeing smoke from this fire last fall — so two years after — on some pieces."

Nearby, a singed giant bore a single clump of green high up in its branches. "Still alive, but likely on life support," he said.

On the other side of the ridge behind Borden was the portion of the property the Castle fire didn't reach. The slope was thick with trees: big broccoli-topped sequoias pressed up against smaller fir and cedar, their branches reaching down to the forest floor.

This was what the rest of the grove looked like before the fire, Borden said. The hillside hasn't burned since at least the 1940s, but it's time to prepare for the inevitability that it will, he said.

The Save the Redwood League's next project, slated to start in July, is to remove some fir and cedar from this area by piling and burning the trees and brush or trucking them away, and then to introduce prescribed burning, Borden said. They are partnering with nonprofit Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions, which is putting together a workforce of Indigenous community members.

The goal is to restore the entire property to a state where it can be maintained by fire — either intentionally set or naturally sparked — that will do good ecological work rather than devastating damage.

All this work doesn't come cheap. The Save the Redwoods League has spent about $2 million on the replanting alone. The seedlings cost about 50 cents apiece to grow and an additional 90 cents to plant. The nonprofit was able to recoup about $800,000 from selling some of the trees that were removed to a lumber mill.

In addition, the probability of any one seedling becoming a monarch — the largest-size class of giant sequoias — is low. A handful might make it to 1,000 years. The chance of one living to 3,000 years? Borden guesses it might be 1 in 10 billion.

But it's important to try, he said, ticking off the reasons: Without restoration and resilience work, this piece of forest will probably convert to shrubland dominated by manzanita, whitethorn and chokecherry. This forest type holds back much less water and stores much less carbon, which are key to slowing climate change.

Culturally, the trees, which Borden describes as "straight out of Dr. Seuss," inspire child-like awe, drawing visitors from all over the world. And morally, it's the right thing to do, he said.

"Humans got us into this mess by Indigenous removal, fire suppression and then climate change," he said. "We put these forests in these conditions. And we have, I believe, the responsibility to do everything we can to rectify those conditions that we created as best as we can. It's a reconciliation."

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

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WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

STUDENTS console each other at Crenshaw High School after Quincy Reese, 16, was shot and killed outside a party Saturday night. A dispute occurred before the shooting, but police believe Quincy was a bystander.

Few clues in fatal shooting

Crenshaw High basketball star was a bystander at party in South L.A., police say.

By Richard Winton, Salvador Hernandez and Katie Licari

The cheering crowds that filled the bleachers at Crenshaw High School boys' basketball games would have seen Quincy Reese giving his all, fighting for rebounds against teenagers taller than him.

But over the weekend, friends, family members and classmates gathered in silence outside the school to mourn the 16-year-old standout athlete, whose senior year and a future filled with possibilities disappeared Saturday night in a burst of gunfire while he was at a party with friends.

Quincy was among a crowd of teenagers outside a hall on 74th Street near Hobart Boulevard in Manchester Square when he was fatally shot, law enforcement officials said.

A dispute occurred before the shooting, Los Angeles Police Capt. Adrian Gonzalez said. Quincy is believed to have been a bystander.

"We don't believe he had anything to do with what

[See **Shooting,** B2]

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

PARADISHA COOPERWOOD, left, Quincy's mother, is consoled by Laronia Wright at a memorial for her slain son on Monday in front of the campus.

ROBERT S. HELFMAN

QUINCY was a 6-foot-1 shooting guard at Crenshaw High School.

Girardi found competent to stand trial in U.S. fraud case

Does ex-lawyer have dementia, or is he faking illness? Report is likely to fuel debate.

By Matt Hamilton and Harriet Ryan

A government expert has concluded that Tom Girardi, the disgraced former attorney accused of stealing millions of dollars from his clients, is mentally fit to go before a jury despite having been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Federal prosecutors revealed the finding of Diana Goldstein in a court filing on Friday, writing that the neuropsychologist "has concluded her examination and opined, among other things, that [Girardi] is competent to stand trial."

Her basis for that conclusion and her full analysis are unclear. Goldstein's report was filed under seal and partly redacted by Girardi's attorneys, and even the prosecutors who retained her do not have access to the complete document.

The finding undercuts years of assertions by Girardi's attorneys and allies and is likely to add fuel to a long-running debate in the legal community over whether he has dementia or has been malingering in order to dodge accountability.

His lawyers at the federal public defender's office did not immediately return messages seeking comment. They have retained two experts to evaluate Girardi, but those analyses have not been disclosed. Goldstein, who did not return a message seeking comment, practices in Chicago and has lectured on the topic of malingering, according to a resume posted online.

Girardi, 84, is accused of federal wire fraud and other counts in two jurisdictions — Los Angeles and Chicago — related to the alleged misappropriation of $18 million in client settlement money.

People close to Girardi have contended for years that he suffers from dementia that makes him unable to understand legal proceedings against him or explain what happened to tens of millions of dollars owed to clients of his once-revered firm, Girardi Keese.

"He still thinks he's practicing law," his estranged wife, Erika Girardi, told Andy Cohen last year on his Bravo show "Watch What Happens Live."

A forensic psychiatrist diagnosed Girardi with Alzheimer's in January 2021, and a judge subsequently placed him in a conservatorship overseen by his younger brother.

Girardi resides in a memory care facility and has been prescribed drugs for dementia, according to filings in his bankruptcy case.

But some have questioned the diagnosis. Girardi was running his firm and speaking to clients and other lawyers up to the day it collapsed in December 2020. He hosted a continuing education panel the previous month.

[See **Girardi,** B2]

Snackable — but also a bit unpalatable

Flamin' Hot Cheetos film is more problematic than its fans will admit

Frito Lay
Dorito
Doritos
COOL RANCH FLAVOR

EMILY ARAGONES Searchlight Pictures

JESSE GARCIA plays Richard Montañez in "Flamin' Hot," Eva Longoria's new movie about the janitor-turned-Frito Lay executive who claims he invented the wildly popular Cheetos variety.

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

I initially had no plans to see "Flamin' Hot," the film directed by Eva Longoria that tells the story of real-life-janitor-turned-Frito-Lay-executive Richard Montañez.

For at least 20 years, the Mexican American has told anyone within hearing distance that he invented the wildly popular Cheetos variety of the same name. The self-proclaimed "godfather of Latino marketing" taught corporate America that it could make billions of dollars off his community — and Latinos willingly forked over that cash because they finally felt seen.

He repeated this origin story to the point that the media — myself included — cited it without question. When my colleague Sam Dean published an article in 2021 proving that Montañez was a fibber at best and a fabulist at worst, Hot Cheetos lovers accused The Times of trying to take down their guy — about the only time

[See **Arellano,** B4]

S.D. community plan is approved

Barrio Logan's growth blueprint gets California Coastal Commission's OK. **B3**

San Jose man dies in Hawaii

Steven Phan, 49, was on his honeymoon when he vanished while snorkeling. **B3**

Eel smuggler faces 21 years

Pomona man tried to sneak previously rejected tainted seafood into the U.S. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

June gloom may clear, but more rain is still possible

By Grace Toohey

After weeks of a particularly persistent bout of overcast weather as May gray dragged on into June gloom, forecasters are hopeful Southern California could see some clearing and warming by the end of this week.

"As the week goes on we have a slightly better chance of seeing peeks of sun," said David Sweet, a National Weather Service meteorologist based in Oxnard. "There's a trough of low pressure that remains in the area through the week, but it gets weaker and weaker each day."

Any shift in the gloomy weather pattern will be gradual, Sweet noted, with temperatures still in the 60s for much of the region Monday — about 10 to 15 degrees below average.

In some parts of San Diego County, daily low maximum temperature records were set Sunday, with Alpine and El Cajon reaching highs of only 58 and 63, respectively, breaking records from the 1960s.

"We're looking at a weather pattern that is very favorable for the development of low clouds and fog," Sweet said. "It's gloomy out there."

This season's chilly, gray spring has been "a pretty aggressive, persistent form," he said, as a trough of low pressure has sat stationary over much of Southern California.

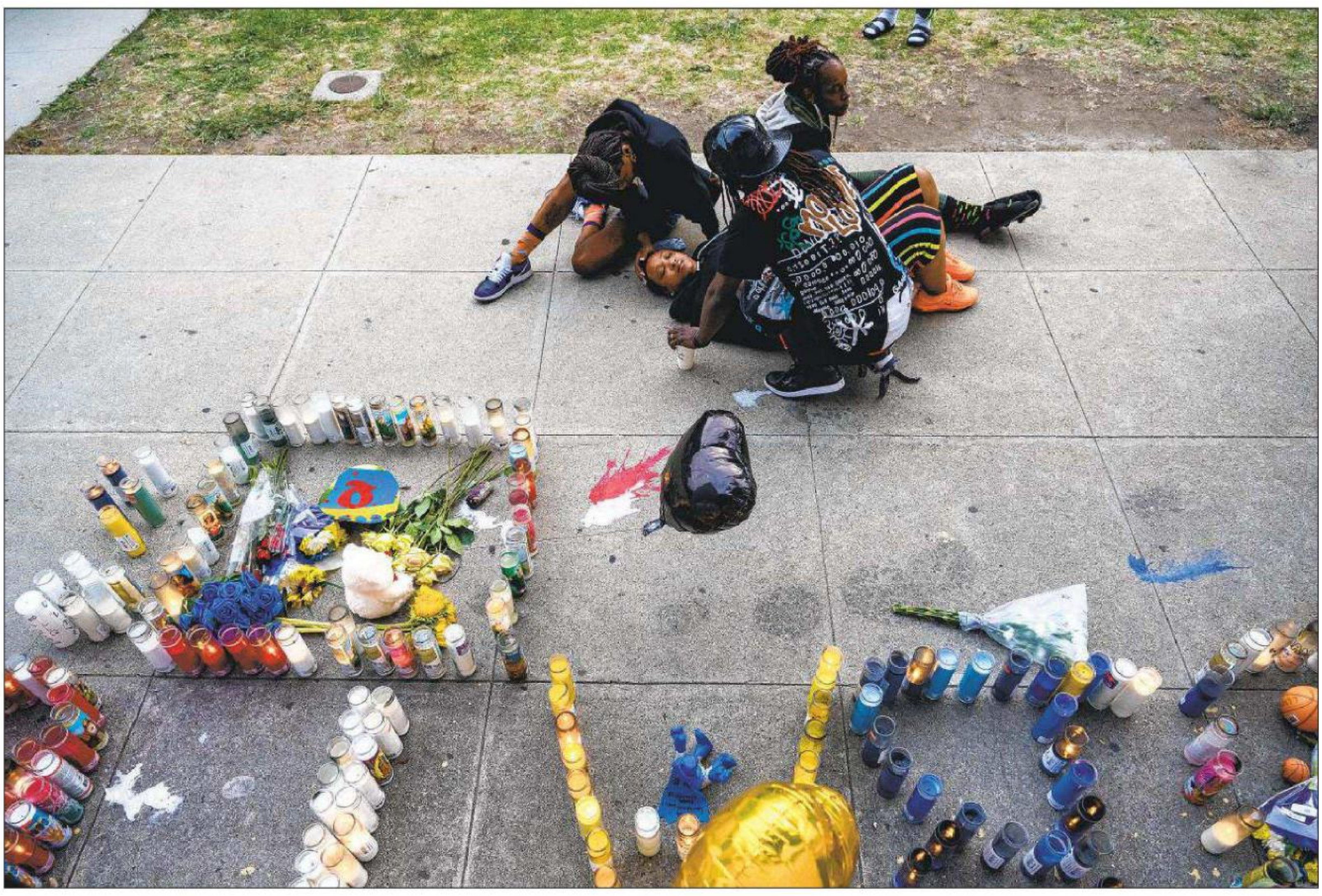
"It's causing these very weak low-pressure systems to form, and that's keeping the low clouds and fog in place," Sweet said.

On Monday morning, Sweet said his team had caught some glimpses of sunshine poking through the clouds in downtown Los Angeles, which should continue in the coming days. By Friday, high temperatures could reach the mid-70s for

[See **Gloom,** B2]

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Dodgers' bullpen isn't just bad, it might be their worst ever. **B10**

Few clues in slaying of hoops player at party



Photographs by Gina Ferazzi Los Angeles Times

FAMILY MEMBERS console Paradisha Cooperwood, the mother of slain 16-year-old basketball star Quincy Reese, in front of Crenshaw High School on Monday in Los Angeles. Quincy was fatally shot outside a party Saturday night in Manchester Square.

[**Shooting,** from B1]
happened," Gonzalez said.

Friends found Quincy soaked in blood behind a car. Paramedics declared him dead at the scene shortly after the 11:30 p.m. shooting.

Police have not released a motive, a description of a suspect or many other details about the shooting. No other injuries were reported.

"We haven't stopped working the case from the moment it happened," said Gonzalez, who oversees the South Bureau Homicide Division.

Detectives have some information that they are not releasing yet because of the investigation, he said.

The event venue at 77 Lounge was rented Saturday night by a parent for a party that was promoted on social media, drawing a large crowd that flowed out onto Western Avenue, said Maurice Cooper, one of the owners of the location.

"I shut down the party at about 10 because so many kids were coming in," he said.

The parents who rented the space had said they would be present, according to Cooper, who later learned the event was advertised to students from local high schools, and teens were being charged $3 to go in.

Najee Ali, an activist and gang interventionist, said young men associated with rival gangs showed up after the party was promoted on social media. Police could not confirm whether the shooting was gang-related.

Still waiting for answers, friends and family are grappling with the loss of a student who seemed to have a bright future.

Quincy was a committed athlete who hit the gym after practice, played baseball, planned to try out for the football team, and still maintained a 3.4 grade-point average, teammates said.

AJ Robinson, 18, a former teammate, said he distinctly remembers meeting Quincy, whom he described as a dedicated player ready to push his teammates — and still crack a joke.

"He'd just put a smile on your face," Robinson said. "He just had a good spirit, very funny, and easy to talk to."

Quincy, a 6-foot-1 shooting guard who had just finished his junior year, wasn't shy to go up against bigger, stronger players on the court.

"He'd be down there throwing elbows, trying to get that rebound, sprinting to the end," Robinson said. "He'd be doing everything that nobody else was doing, trying to get that ball."

Ed Waters, Crenshaw High's boys' basketball coach, said he'd planned to tap Quincy and one of his childhood friends to be captains next season.

Quincy was full of potential, Waters said, adding that about 50 small colleges had kept an eye on his games. He tended to joke around with his teammates, drawing them in with his humor.

"Sometimes it's about trying to unlock these kids to be leaders, and sometimes acting silly is an unlock, and he was silly," Waters said. "He just made everyone comfortable."

Isom Taylor, a senior point guard, said Quincy immediately made him feel welcomed when he transferred into Crenshaw High's basketball program.

'He'd just put a smile on your face. He just had a good spirit, very funny, and easy to talk to.'

— AJ Robinson,
former teammate of Quincy Reese

"He was a really bright person and was always happy, laughing or joking around," he said. "He's a person I consider to be a little brother."

Quincy's father, Quincy Reese Sr., said in an interview with The Times that his "world changed" when his son was born. Quincy was a gentleman who loved his teammates and was not one to back down from a challenge, his father said.

He said that his son had been with him all day Saturday before the party and that he was waiting to pick him up from the event.

"He was just a regular kid that had a nice future coming his way," Reese said.

The shooting comes as violent crime against minors in Los Angeles appeared to be on the decline.

So far this year, homicides involving minors are at the lowest level since 2020. Not including Quincy's death, there have been 11 homicides involving juvenile victims in 2023.

According to a Times analysis of LAPD data from January 2020 to June 7, 2023, the most recent data available, this year's rate of youth homicides is 1.8 killings a month, compared with 2.5 in 2021. After several years of rising crime involving juvenile victims, the city is seeing an average of 319.5 violent crimes against minors a month, down from 427.25 a month in 2022.

Quincy's killing left his friends and teammates devastated.

Robinson, who said he didn't attend the party, learned that Quincy was shot early Sunday, when his phone kept vibrating and woke him up.

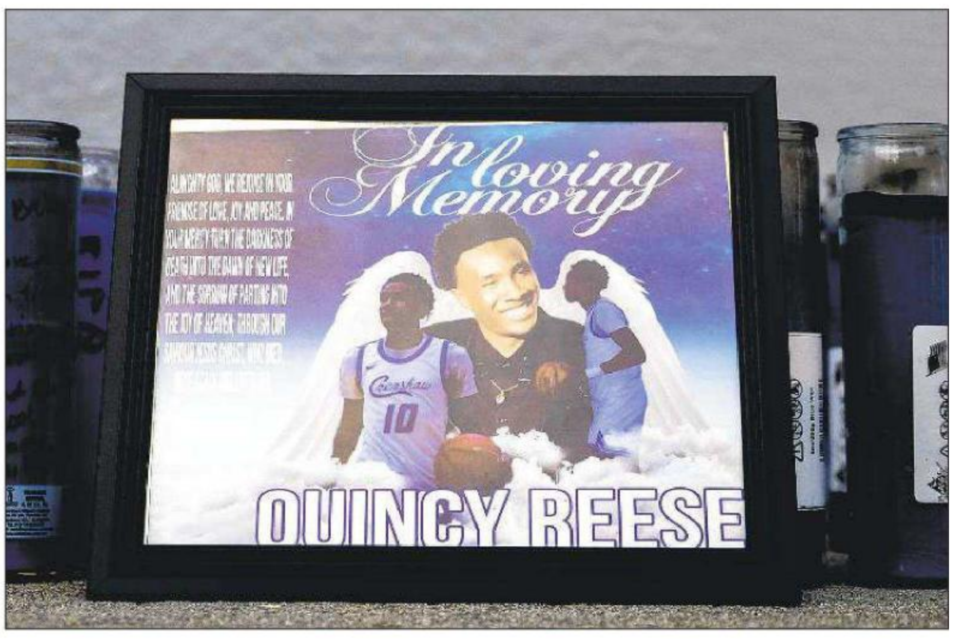
It was then he saw a video on social media of someone facedown in a pool of blood, with a laughing emoji attached to the short video.

He was told it was Quincy.

Gonzalez said detectives are aware of a social media post related to the shooting and are vetting it, but he cautioned that the post may not be connected to the shooter.

By 3 a.m., Robinson walked out of his house, confused and trying to get some air.

A teammate who lives nearby texted him, and he went over to his house. Neither of them could go back to sleep, so they spent the dark predawn hours mourning their friend.



AN IMAGE of Quincy sits among other keepsakes at the makeshift memorial for the slain basketball star on Monday in front of Crenshaw High School.

A CLASSMATE holds his head in grief next to the memorial. Quincy was a committed athlete who still maintained a 3.4 grade-point average, teammates say.

Lottery results

Tonight's Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $260 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

For Monday, June 12, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

2-3-16-23-68—**Powerball 7**
Jackpot: $324 million

Fantasy Five: 9-12-26-32-35

Daily Four: 7-0-2-6

Daily Three (midday): 1-9-7

Daily Three (evening): 6-1-8

Daily Derby:
(12) Lucky Charms
(5) California Classic
(1) Gold Rush
Race time: 1:45.91

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

"WE'RE LOOKING at a weather pattern that is very favorable for the development of low clouds and fog," said meteorologist David Sweet. Above, a woman surveys cloudy skies last week near downtown Los Angeles.

Break from June gloom may be near

[**Gloom,** from B1]
much of L.A. County's coast and valleys.

"The clouds over L.A. County are starting to break up a little bit," Sweet said. "We are starting to see a few breaks here and there."

But as the marine layer, fog and clouds continue, Sweet said there's a continued chance for light rain in the area, especially in the mornings across the San Gabriel foothills.

And through at least Thursday, there is also an "outsize chance" for afternoon thunderstorms in the Ventura County and San Gabriel mountains, which could bring the possibility of local flooding, small hail and gusty winds.

As the month progresses — with the official start to summer June 21 — the typical June gloom usually begins to fade, Sweet said.

"We're hopeful that a little bit before the end of the month we'll start to break out of this," Sweet said. "Believe me, I'm tired of it too."

Ex-lawyer Girardi is found fit for trial in fraud case

[**Girardi,** from B1]
The State Bar of California was so suspicious that he was faking illness that it asked the judge in the conservatorship proceedings to order an independent and more thorough mental examination with an agency lawyer, writing that the claim of cognitive problems came "only after [Girardi] became enmeshed in mounting legal troubles."

The judge in that case denied the state bar's request. Girardi was disbarred last year.

When Girardi appeared at his February arraignment, he did not speak. Assistant U.S. Atty. Scott Paetty said at the time that the government "understands competency will be an issue in this matter."

Girardi's lawyers are expected to file a motion this month regarding their client's competency, probably providing greater detail into his current condition and the findings of medical experts.

A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 3.

Diverse community's growth proposal advances

State panel's low-cost hotel plan has faced resistance in San Diego's Barrio Logan.

By Emily Alvarenga

SAN DIEGO — The long-awaited community growth blueprint for the Barrio Logan neighborhood of San Diego is one step closer to implementation after being unanimously approved last week by the Coastal Commission — but the city must agree to some key changes first.

Barrio Logan, just south of downtown on the San Diego Bay, is one of the city's most culturally diverse neighborhoods, as well as one of the most polluted. It ranks in the 90th percentile of pollution-burdened communities in California, according to the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

The updated plan aims to improve public health in Barrio Logan by separating residents from the neighboring shipping industry, while ensuring that no new industrial facilities are permitted in the neighborhood.

The blueprint was given the green light by the San Diego City Council in December 2021 but has been awaiting approval from the California Coastal Commission, which must weigh in on planning policies and development that affect the state's coastlines.

On Thursday, the commission voted unanimously to approve an amended version of the plan. Now the ball is back in San Diego's court to approve the commission's suggested modifications.

"Barrio Logan has been historically a marginalized community ... that's been at the tail end of years and years of pollution, so it's really great to see that we've come this far," said Commissioner Paloma Aguirre, who is mayor of Imperial Beach. "It's a resilient community that's up and coming."

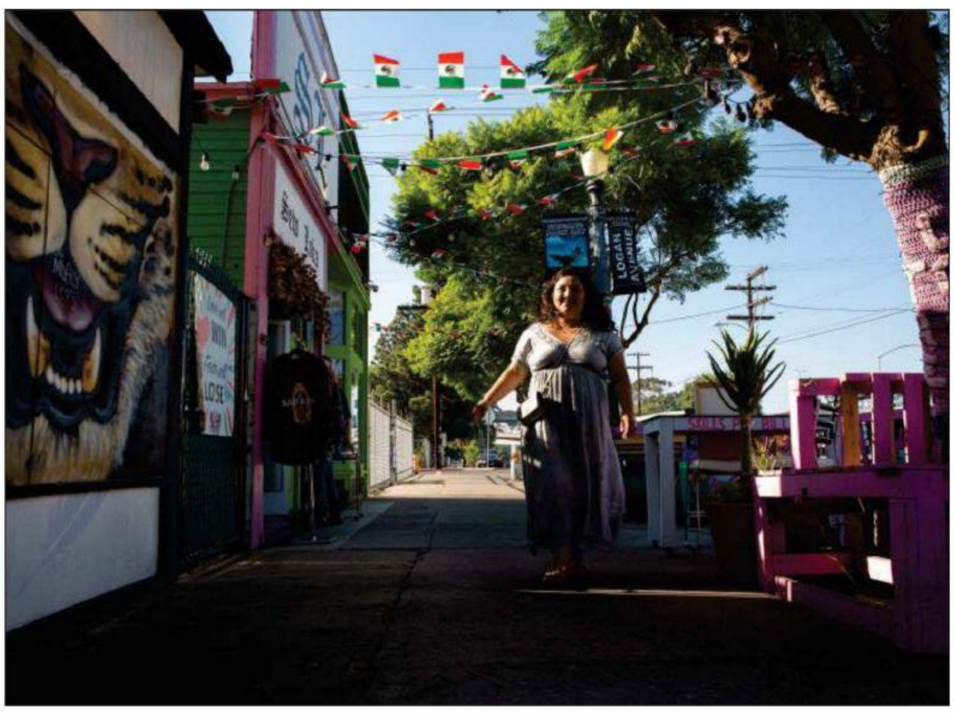
Heidi Vonblum, San Diego's planning director, said her department will bring the Barrio Logan plan as amended for consideration before the council as quickly as possible.

The final hurdle

City planners have been working with the commission over the last year to address proposed modifications to the plan, such as improving access to the bayfront through bilingual way-finding signage and restoring the Chollas Creek, a watershed that drains into the San Diego Bay.

K.C. Alfred San Diego Union-Tribune

A BIG RIG moves along Harbor Drive in San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood. An update to the community plan for the polluted area aims to improve public health by preventing additional industrial development.



Ana Ramirez San Diego Union-Tribune

JULIE CORRALES, a Barrio Logan policy advocate for the Environmental Health Coalition, has cited crime at the neighborhood's low-cost motel.

Coastal Program Manager Kanani Leslie says the city is in agreement with all modifications except for two policies regarding affordable hotel accommodations, which have been a point of contention in past community plan discussions.

The commission's modifications would add language to require a one-to-one replacement of low-cost hotel or motel facilities and would require more expensive hotels to reduce prices on a quarter of their rooms, or else pay a fee to help fund the development of cheaper accommodations.

Marlon Pangilinan, a program coordinator in the city's planning department, said these policies could discourage developers from building in Barrio Logan.

The city would prefer to implement these policies across all 12 coastal neighborhoods.

"We must consider consistency in our policy decisions to ensure fairness and equal treatment," Pangilinan added.

The one-to-one replacement policy was of concern to resident Julie Corrales, who spoke during the public comment period. She described problems at the neighborhood's only low-cost motel.

"It's been horrendous to live next to," she said.

Her children have woken up to police raids, Corrales said, and have seen dead bodies on the motel's balconies.

City officials have called the Main Street Motel in Barrio Logan a magnet for crime and have declared it a public nuisance. In four years, police have received 229 calls for service there, according to the city attorney's office, including calls about prostitution, loitering, fights and drug overdoses.

"This is the kind of activity that we see, unfortunately, in this community when there's low-cost accommodations," said Corrales, who is chair of the Barrio Logan Community Planning Group and a policy advocate with the Environmental Health Coalition. "The Barrio is not a place for tourists to come spend time in the coastal area. ... Right now, replacing these units is not beneficial to anyone in the community."

Just last month, the motel agreed to adopt dozens of business practices aimed at putting an end to illegal activity.

In response to these concerns, the commissioners agreed to exclude the Main Street establishment from the changes they proposed, meaning the one-to-one policy would not apply. But commissioners decided to retain the policy for future development.

"We're hoping that if it's not a good place to bring visitors now, we certainly hope that at some point in the future that's changed," said Karl Schwing, the commission's district director.

City staff raised similar concerns with affordable hotel policies in 2015 when the Ocean Beach growth blueprint was being considered. At that time, commissioners agreed to remove those policies — but the current commissioners say that, eight years later, San Diego has yet to come forward with a comprehensive, citywide ordinance.

Commission staff said these suggested policies are consistent with its statewide practices and similar to other recent amendments made in Long Beach and Half Moon Bay.

A long time coming

Barrio Logan was primarily residential until World War II shipyards expanded, and heavy industry took over the waterfront. Pollution in the neighborhood worsened in the late 1960s, when construction of the San Diego-Coronado Bridge tore it in half.

Since then, the primarily Latino residents have uneasily coexisted with industrial uses they say have polluted the air and posed health risks.

The proposed community plan update — which guides development in the 1,000-acre planning area over the next 20 to 30 years — creates a 65-acre buffer zone between housing areas and the shipping industry in which any new or expanded industrial uses are prohibited. It also calls for tripling the number of homes and for building eight new parks and more neighborhood-friendly projects.

If approved, it will be the first update to the community's growth plan since 1978.

In 2014, local business groups overturned a similar effort with a successful citywide referendum.

The city has six months to approve the amended plan and report back to the commission. That period can be extended if needed, said Leslie, the coastal program manager.

After the council makes its decision, the Planning Department will have to submit the Barrio Logan community plan back to the commission for final certification. If the city chooses not to approve the suggested modifications, Leslie said, it could suggest different amendments and start the approval process over.

Alvarenga writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Eel smuggler slips, faces 21-year sentence

Wholesale business owner tried to import previously rejected seafood, officials say.

By Saumya Gupta

A Pomona man faces up to 21 years in federal prison after attempting to sneak into the country frozen roasted eels that had been rejected for entry because they were tainted with unsafe animal drugs.

Kevin Sheng Hsiang Fang, 41, and his wholesale business Yong Chang Trading Co. in the City of Industry pleaded guilty May 31 to smuggling and introducing the adulterated frozen roasted eels into interstate commerce.

U.S. Department of Justice

FROZEN ROASTED EEL is set aside for inspection. A Pomona man tried to sneak tainted eel into the U.S.

Fang will face a maximum sentence of 21 years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 14.

In February 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration tested one of Fang's shipments, consisting of 2,100 cartons of frozen roasted eels, and found it to be unsafe for human consumption.

Fang attempted to reimport those rejected eels later that year by mixing them with a new shipment of eels and using different identification numbers that are needed when bringing goods to the U.S., said Assistant U.S. Atty. Amanda M. Bettinelli, who is prosecuting the case.

"This individual showed complete disregard for the health and safety of the U.S. consumer by knowingly bringing tainted products into the market," Eddy Wang, acting special agent in charge at Homeland Security Investigations Los Angeles, said in a press release.

One shipment contained roasted eels that were tainted with antifungal and antiparastic agents that are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use on seafood. According to the FDA, prolonged exposure to those materials can have a carcinogenic effect.

Bettinelli said agents with the FDA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized that Fang was again attempting to import the rejected eels when they noticed holes in them from where samples had previously been taken.

Woman dies in waterfall accident

By Lyndsay Winkley and Teri Figueroa

SAN DIEGO — A 48-year-old Orange County woman died and a 15-year-old girl was injured when they fell from the ledge of a waterfall last week in Cleveland National Forest, authorities said.

A woman and four teens were hiking Thursday at one of the Three Sisters Falls in the Descanso area, San Diego County Sheriff's Lt. Jeff Ford said. One teen slipped, and the woman tried to keep her from going over the edge, but both fell, Ford said.

When firefighters arrived, they took the woman to the trailhead to meet a helicopter ambulance, but she died before she could be flown out, according to Capt. Brent Pascua of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. She was identified as Sarah Louise Crocker of Ladera Ranch, the medical examiner's office said.

The girl who fell, who was not identified, was flown to a trauma hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening, authorities said.

Winkley and Figueroa write for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

San Jose man drowns during Hawaiian honeymoon

The 49-year-old was snorkling off Oahu. Meanwhile, someone stole his rental car.

By Tony Briscoe

A San Jose couple's Hawaiian honeymoon ended in tragedy this month on the island of Oahu.

Steven Phan, 49, had been married for three months when he and his wife, Brittany, traveled to the islands to celebrate their nuptials. Phan, an avid traveler, vanished June 1 while snorkeling off Electric Beach, a popular destination on southwestern Oahu 25 miles from Honolulu.

A spear fisher pulled Phan to the shore, and bystanders performed CPR before first responders arrived, according to KITV in Honolulu.

As this was unfolding, the couple's rental car — with their cellphones, money and clothing — was stolen.

"People, they don't have the decency, integrity, it's just morals, I guess," John Titchen, chief of Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division, told KITV.

As of Sunday evening, a GoFundMe page had raised more than $20,000 for Phan's memorial services. His funeral is scheduled for Tuesday in suburban San Jose.

A refugee of the Vietnam War, Phan was an infant when his family moved to Santa Ana. He graduated with a political science degree from UC Irvine and most recently worked as a senior manager at Apple.

He enjoyed playing golf, cooking for the holidays and caring for his three rescue dogs, according to his obituary.

In January 2021, in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, Phan's world brightened when he met Brittany.

"They entwined their lives and built something beautiful," Phan's obituary reads. "They passionately supported each other's goals, frequently traveled, and celebrated two wedding ceremonies in San Francisco, California and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. They laughed, dreamed of their future together and hoped to grow their family. Friends noted how she made him glow and he made her sparkle."

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Bids Wanted

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Southern Mono Healthcare District is issuing a Request for Bids

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Southern Mono Healthcare District dba Mammoth Hospital ("District") is issuing a Request for Bids on June 12, 2023 to California state licensed general contractors for improvements to the south parking lot at Mammoth Hospital located at 85 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Bids must be received by the District not later than 9:00 AM on June 30, 2023, at which time they will be opened at a public meeting in the Mammoth Hospital Conference Room A/B located at 85 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Hospital, CA 93546. At the next District Board meeting, currently scheduled for July 20, 2023, the Board of Directors will award the Contract to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder complying with these instructions on the basis of the lump sum price or will reject all Bids. The Request for Bids and all associated documents are accessible at https://mammothhospital.org/about-us/board-of-directors/facility-corporate-documents-2/current-bid-opportunities/ or by contacting Sarah Rea at Sarah.Rea@mammothhospital.com.

Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC 13520 Evening Creek Drive N., Suite 270 San Diego, CA 92128 Accepting Bids – ALL TRADES Requested, Especially from CERTIFIED DVBE for: Alexander Hamilton High School - Comprehensive Modernization Project Bid Date: June 23 rd at 2PM Owner : Los Angeles Unified School District Project Locations: 2955 S Robertson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90034 Corporate Location: Balfour Beatty Construction 13520 Evening Creek Drive N., Suite 270, San Diego, CA 92128 Contact:
Jake Jaenicke Phone: (858) 860-6455 E-mail: jjaenicke@balfourbeattyus.com
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Legal Notices

$50,000 REWARD NOTICE

The City of Los Angeles offers a reward payable at the discretion of the City Council to one or more persons in the sum or sums up to an aggregate maximum total sum of $50,000 for information leading to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible for the DEATH OF Michael Jackson, in the city of Los Angeles On September 12, 2020, Michael Jackson and his neighbor were sitting outside and socializing in the driveway of their apartment complex in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, when an unknown individual walked past them to the end of their driveway. That person then turned around and walked back toward Mr. Jackson and his friend, pulled out a gun, shot Mr. Jackson once in the chest and fled. Paramedics responded to the scene but were unable to revive Mr. Jackson. Detectives are continuing to investigate this crime but have not been able to identify any leads. The detectives believe a reward may compel member of the public to provide information on the persons responsible for this crime. The person or persons responsible for this crime represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles; therefore, it is appropriate for the City of Los Angeles to offer a reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this crime. Unless withdrawn or paid by City Council action, this offer of reward shall terminate on, and have no effect after, December 13, 2023. The provisions of payment and all other considerations shall be governed by Chapter 12 of Division 19 of the LAAC Code, as amended by Ordinance Nos. 158157 and 166666. This offer shall be given upon the condition that claimants continued cooperation within the criminal justice system relative to this case and is not available to public officers or employees of the City, their families, persons in law enforcement or persons whose misconduct prompted this reward. If you have any information regarding this case, please call the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877-LAPD-24-7, 24 hours. C. F. No. 21-0010-S6
6/13/23

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP 17STPB01303

CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF JODI EYRAUD CONSERVATEE

TO GLORY EYRAUD: NOTICE is given that Gabrielle Robin, Conservator, has filed:
Third and Final Account and Report of Conservator (Conservatee Deceased); Petition for Approval of Conservator's and Attorney's Fees, for Distribution of Remaining Estate to Trust, and for Discharge and Exoneration of Bond.

A HEARING on the matter described will be held as follows:
Date: 7/17/2023 at 8:30 AM Dept 4 at
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles, Central Branch
111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Cynthia Pearson
Overton, Lyman & Prince LLP
520 S. Grand Ave., Suite 395
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 683-1100
cpearson@overtonlaw.net
Attorney for Petitioner

Published in the LOS ANGELES TIMES on: 6/13/2023, 6/20/2023, 6/27/2023 and 7/4/2023

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22STCV00683

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(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
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NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - Stanley Mosk
111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Marc A. Schwarz, Esq. (Bar# 292758)
Mendelson Schwarz, APLC
5805 Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 850
Sherman Oaks , CA 91411
(818) 575-6822

Date: (Fecha) 01-07-2022

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
R. Clifton Deputy (Adjunto)

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING DECEDENT'S ESTATE OR TRUST 18STPB05843

IN THE MATTER OF JODI EYRAUD IRREVOCABLE TRUST

TO GLORY EYRAUD: NOTICE is given that Gabrielle Robin, Trustee, has filed:
PETITION FOR INSTRUCTIONS (PROBATE CODE 17200) AND THIRD ACCOUNT CURRENT AND REPORT OF TRUSTEE; PETITION FOR TRUSTEE'S AND ATTORNEYS' FEES

A HEARING on the matters described will be held as follows:
Date: 7/17/2023 at 8:30 AM Dept 4 at
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles, Central Branch
111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Edward F. Pearson
Overton, Lyman & Prince LLP
520 S. Grand Ave., Suite 395
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 683-1100
efpearson@overtonlaw.net
Attorney for Gabrielle Robin

Published in the LOS ANGELES TIMES on: 6/13/2023, 6/20/2023, 6/27/2023 and 7/4/2023

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*: 22CHLC09934

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
DAVID NAHOM

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

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You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site *(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)*, the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE**: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.*
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puedo encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y hiener sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
9425 Penfield Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
BREANNE L. REESE, ESQ. (CA BAR NO.: 314663)
REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 567217)

DATE *(Fecha)*: 05/12/2022
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk of Court
Clerk *(Secretario)*, by J. KHATRI *(Adjunto)*
(SEAL)
5/30,6/6,6/13, and 6/20/23

CNS-3704897#

Published in the Los Angeles Times

love is...
kim
6/13
...someone who does everything BIG!
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUHOD

YUGNO

RYTOSM

DCATEH

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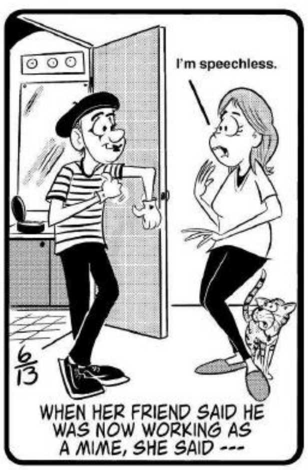
I'm speechless.
6/13
WHEN HER FRIEND SAID HE WAS NOW WORKING AS A MIME, SHE SAID ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

' !

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAPH HONOR TURKEY DIVIDE
Answer: The circles had just gotten back from vacation and were exhausted from their — ROUND TRIP

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Los Angeles Times

A film that's both pandering and pernicious

[**Arellano,** from B1]

you'll see leftists defend a Fortune 500 bigwig.

Two years later, Longoria — who was already planning "Flamin' Hot" when Dean's article appeared — is still sore about the whole affair. In an interview the superstar did with the paper earlier this spring, she dismissed Dean's reporting by snickering, "[It] feels like L.A. Times would have better resources dedicated to more important things."

So, yeah, why would I want to stream Longoria's movie? Because Latinos better than me say I should.

The National Hispanic Media Coalition, which has righteously called out anti-Latino bias in Hollywood and the national media for decades, sent out a news release urging people to see "Flamin' Hot." LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes in downtown hosted a packed outdoor screening this month attended by Longoria, Montañez and Dolores Huerta. Friends of mine who believed Dean's findings nevertheless posted on social media that they saw "Flamin' Hot" and enjoyed it.

I get the widespread call to support the film, which was released Friday on Hulu and Disney+. There aren't enough Hollywood projects with Latinos in starring roles in front of and behind the camera, so we should at least think about showing up for the few that bubble up. As I wrote in a column defending Dean's findings, "[Latinos are] invested in those who do rise up to levels we can only hope to achieve. After all, we're still outsiders in the United States despite our numbers, our centuries of living here."

So this past weekend, I streamed "Flamin' Hot." It's just like its namesake: snackable, though nowhere near as good as fans attest and far more problematic than they'll ever admit.

Jesse Garcia plays Montañez as a nice guy, toiling as a janitor, who doesn't let obstacles — an abusive father, a dalliance with drug dealing, a racist society, skeptical bosses — get in the way of his dreams. Veteran actors Dennis Haysbert and Tony Shalhoub nail their roles as the Rancho Cucamonga plant engineer who gave Montañez the breaks he needed and the PepsiCo CEO who allegedly OKd his Flamin' Hot dreams.

Longoria does a decent job as a first-time director, in some respects. You care about her characters, the plot easily unfolds over a brisk 99 minutes, and the cinematography is warm and comforting. She nevertheless throws away all the good in the film by blindly buying Montañez's pitch: not just as the inventor of Hot Cheetos but as someone who should be hailed as a Latino hero.

From the mariachi yelps that punctuate the 20th Century Studios fanfare before "Flamin' Hot" even begins to the vintage truck that Garcia's Montañez drives at the end, Longoria glops on the *mexicanidad*. Spanish guitars, congas and mariachi horns blare throughout the film. White characters are mostly buffoons with no redeeming value. Beloved Chicano songs such as "Cutie Pie," "No Tengo Dinero" and "Mexican Power" get trotted out as proof that Hollywood finally gets Latinos. Lines such as "The Hispanic market will not be ignored" and "We're going to get [Hot Cheetos] out to our people" are tossed in to guarantee applause and whoops from viewers.

Actual history, of course, is an afterthought. The film states that Montañez came up with the idea for Hot Cheetos in 1992, even though Dean's article showed that was the year the snack made its debut nationwide after successful test runs in Texas and the Midwest. A key point Montañez tells in one of his *two* memoirs — how he plugged into Tupperware parties in Southern California to spread the gospel of Hot Cheetos — is retold as a lowrider escapade that plays like a hidden level of "Grand Theft Auto."

Dean's story didn't discount the arc of Montañez's life — he really was a high school dropout from Ontario who rose through the ranks of Frito-Lay and now travels the country to speak about his unlikely rise. He just didn't invent Flamin' Hot Cheetos — others at Frito-Lay did.

But the details of history don't matter to Longoria; Mexican pride does. "Flamin' Hot" is the type of feel-good treacle that high school teachers screened for their Mexican American students when I was coming of age in the 1990s to make us feel better about ourselves. Teachers today will no doubt do the same for their students. That's what makes "Flamin Hot" not just pandering but pernicious.

I don't doubt Longoria's sincerity about bringing nuanced Latino stories to the big and small screen. She has produced documentaries about farmworker exploitation and is starring in a CNN travel show about Mexico. In interviews, the Texas native has frequently cited "Occupied America," a foundational text of Chicano studies by Cal State Northridge legend Rudy Acuña that she read while obtaining a master's degree in the subject at the university.

> 'Flamin' Hot' is the type of feel-good treacle that high school teachers screened for their Mexican American students to make us feel better about ourselves.

But Eva: Montañez and Hot Cheetos aren't the landmarks you think they are. Take it from another Acuña book, "Anything But Mexican: Chicanos in Contemporary Los Angeles."

In a chapter about the commercialization of Olvera Street in the 1980s, the *profe* assailed the beer companies that poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Cinco de Mayo advertising, as well as Mexican American civic and business groups, in order to capture the Latino market. Here was an example of corporate America acknowledging Latinos — a trade-off that led to Cinco de Mayo's "degeneration into a multicultural beer bust" and helped facilitate increased rates of alcoholism among Mexican Americans, Acuña argued.

"The fantasy heritage" of corporations acknowledging Latino pride, Acuña seethed, "is often more attractive than the truth — and certainly more profitable."

Presented with a choice between fantasy and truth, Longoria went for the fantasy.

She never even wrestles with *whether* we should celebrate Montañez and Hot Cheetos, a product with no nutritional value beloved by a community ravaged by diabetes and obesity and struggling to find healthful eating options. The fact that Mexican Americans claim the snack as their own, and celebrate a man who claims he helped bring it to his community, is enough for her. That's reminiscent of Mexican singers who croon about narco culture and brush off critics by saying they're just giving audiences what they want.

"We never set out to tell the history of the Cheeto," Longoria told my colleague Mark Olsen in her testy Times interview. "We are telling Richard Montañez's story and we're telling his truth."

That "truth" — support someone for what they represent, instead of what they actually did — is the very type of historical revisionism that Mexican American activists are trying to dismantle. Now we're supposed to celebrate it?

Pass the Doritos, and pass on Longoria's flamin' hot mess.

Nearly homeless, she won the Medi-Cal lottery

Woman with health issues is among first to receive new housing move-in benefit.

By Angela Hart

Annie Malloy started getting sick in 2020. Fits of uncontrolled vomiting would hit, causing debilitating nausea and severe dehydration that would send her to the emergency room. She couldn't keep weight on, and the vomiting got so bad she was admitted to the hospital 26 times that year.

Malloy, one of the 15.8 million low-income people enrolled in California's Medicaid program, called Medi-Cal, racked up extraordinary healthcare costs while her doctors struggled to diagnose her illness. One hospitalization for a patient in a Medi-Cal managed-care program can cost nearly $18,000, on average.

As she was struggling to understand the cause of her illness, without stable housing, Malloy's health deteriorated further. The resident of Fallbrook, a community in San Diego County, was couch-surfing and living in a dilapidated residential motel, unable to find an apartment on her $1,850-a-month in Social Security Disability Insurance income.

"I was absolutely on the verge of being homeless," she said.

But then Malloy got lucky.

In March, she became one of the first Californians to receive help covering her rental move-in costs from Medi-Cal. She still had to find something she could afford, but she was eligible for this nontraditional health service under an initiative called CalAIM. Spearheaded by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, it will pour $12 billion into a range of new social services and benefits to aid some of the state's most vulnerable enrollees, including those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Newsom and top state health officials say offering services such as housing assistance and healthful food will help keep people from ending up in costly institutions, such as emergency rooms.

Though the Medi-Cal experiment will be tested by California's unprecedented homelessness crisis, it has worked for Malloy.

Malloy received $5,000 to cover her housing security deposit and was linked to a medical social worker who helped her find an apartment she could afford. And in early spring, she moved out of a roach-infested motel in Escondido to a new home in nearby Fallbrook.

"I couldn't have gotten this place without that help," Malloy, 60, said in March as she packed dishes and scrubbed her motel room in anticipation of her move. "When you don't have housing, everything turns into a cascade effect. You can't manage everything and stay healthy."

Malloy had a career as a paralegal until the uncontrolled vomiting began in early 2020 and she could no longer work. She still has a hard time affording the $1,500 rent for her one-bedroom apartment, but her granddaughter MaryJane Lindsay, who lives with her, helps cover the bills with her restaurant job. The new Medi-Cal services don't yet pay for rent, but Newsom is proposing an expansion to cover up to six months of payments — benefits that could go far in helping other low-income Californians who need help obtaining housing.

"There's so many people on the streets. It's just impossible to help everyone who needs it," said Ytzayana Camorlinga, a housing caseworker at the San Diego nonprofit Social Advocates for Youth, which helped Malloy land an apartment. "We were thrilled to get Annie into the program because it was the first time we did it."

CalAIM has so far served only a sliver of Medi-Cal patients in need since it launched in January 2022 — even as tens of thousands of low-income Californians probably qualify. In San Diego County, just 20 Medi-Cal patients have received the housing move-in assistance, according to the state Department of Health Care Services, which administers Medi-Cal.

Malloy found help via her former Medi-Cal insurer, Blue Shield of California, which deemed her eligible to receive $5,000 for a security deposit.

Whether a patient is enrolled in new benefits and services depends largely on which Medi-Cal insurer they have and where they live. The community-based organizations that contract with insurers to deliver services have their own eligibility criteria, KFF Health News has found, making the system uneven. The 23 health insurers serving Medi-Cal patients have wide discretion to decide the array of CalAIM services they offer.

In San Diego, for example, some Medi-Cal patients readily get rental help, while others qualify for housing assistance only if they have a child younger than 18. Some insurers pay for Uber rides for patients in need of medical transportation, while others offer bus passes.

"Annie was one of the first to get housing deposits, and now we know what it takes," said Kitty Bailey, chief executive of the San Diego Wellness Collaborative, which contracts with Blue Shield and, along with Camorlinga, helped enroll Malloy into the new benefits. "This is really a fundamental shift in healthcare, and we're trying our best to help as many people in need as we can, but it's challenging."

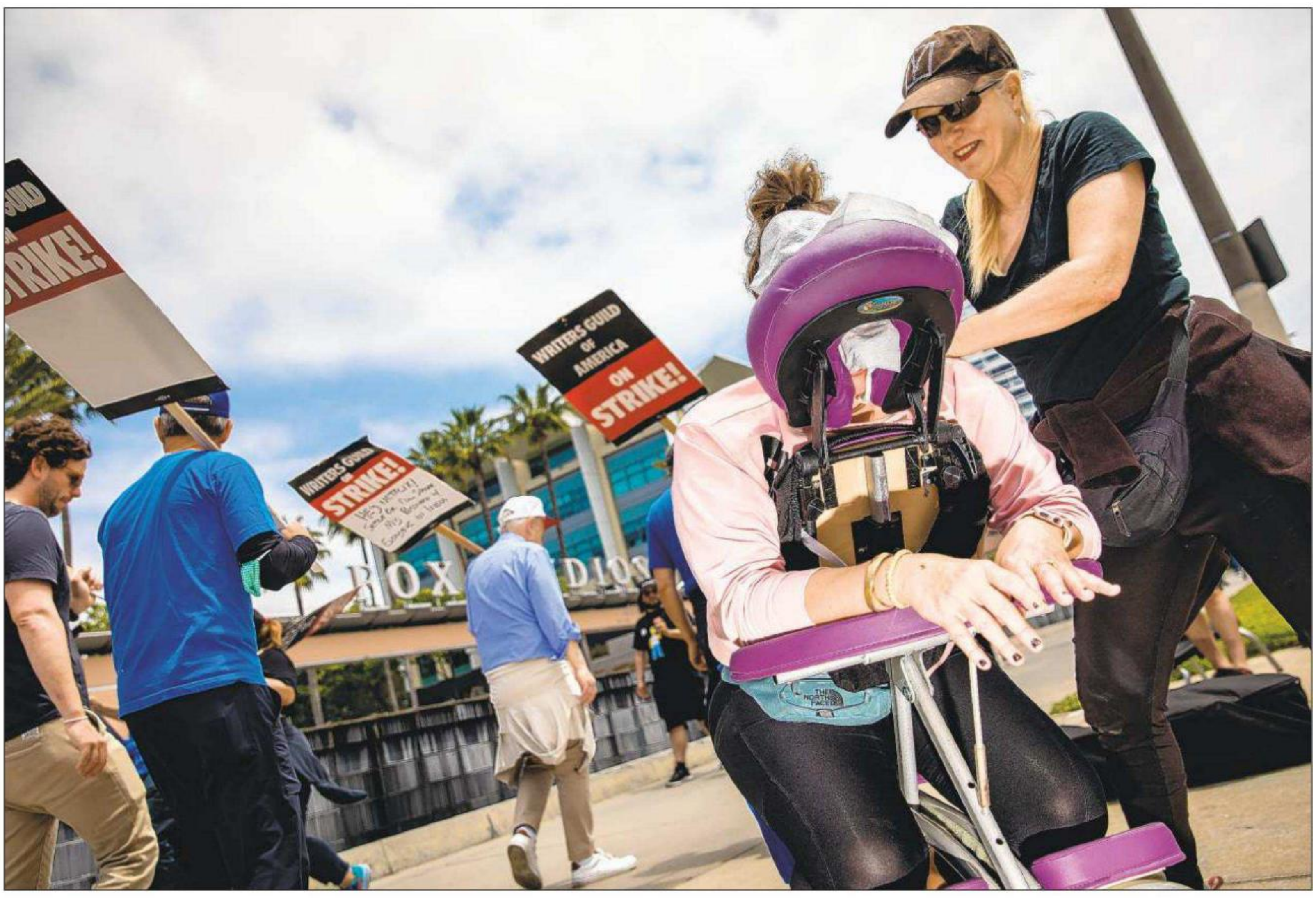
For Malloy, whose doctors are still trying to find the cause of her illness after repeated tests, it took a team of social workers and case managers acting on her behalf to help her get into housing. But now, she says, she is healthier.

Since she moved out of the motel, Malloy says, her vomiting has been more controlled. She hasn't had to go to the emergency room as often, she's put on weight, and she's on a steady prescription of potassium. Most mornings, she wakes for coffee on her back patio, a serene habit that has also improved her mental health.

Malloy recently switched health insurers and is now enrolled in Health Net because it covers more of her medical care at no cost. But the new Medi-Cal services Blue Shield helped her obtain were lifesaving, she said.

"We were in an old, beat-up hotel in a bad part of town before, and now I live in a house with a bright, sunny yard surrounded by an orange grove — it's night and day. I spend a lot of time outside, and I could not do that where I was living before," she said. "Housing is such an important part of being healthy."

Hart writes for KFF Health News.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Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

MUCH-KNEADED SUPPORT

Christie Deddens, a certified massage therapist, works on a Writers Guild of America picketer in front of Fox Studios in Century City. She has driven past several studios where picketing has taken place and volunteered her services in between her usual clients.

Obituaries

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Stanley Joseph Glickman

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George Kiyoshi Hama

March 25, 1931 - May 11, 2023

George K. Hama, 92-year-old, Torrance-born, resident of Lake Forest peacefully passed away at Residence of Freedom Village Health Care Center on May 11.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Grace Kiyoko Hama; He is survived by his loving family; sons, Allan Michael Hama of Nevada, Mark (Mariko) Hama, Vincent (Amber) Hama, Ryan (Emiko) Hama, of California; grandchildren, Madison, Kayla, Nicholas, Brandon, and Allison; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

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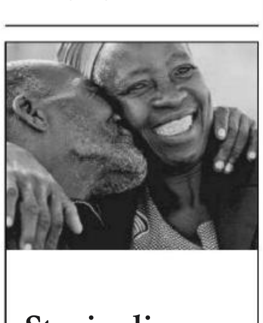
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Los Angeles Times
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Florence Manne

May 3, 1921 - June 7, 2023

Former Rockette, jazz supporter and equestrian Flip Manne passed away June 7th at the age of 102. She was the oldest living Rockette. The youngest of four daughters of Major and Helen Butterfield, she was born on May 3rd in Vernon, Vermont, attended school there and, later, graduated from Adams, Massachusetts high school in 1939.

After graduation, she moved to New York City to dance, dancing at the Roxie and other clubs until she made the line with the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. She danced with the Rockettes from 1941 to 1945. It was while she was a Rockette that she met her future husband, Shelly Manne, a member of the Radio City Music Hall orchestra.

Flip and Shelly were married August 26, 1943. She continued with the Rockettes through 1945 while Shelly served with the Coast Guard during World War II. In 1951, they moved to southern California, residing in Northridge. Later, they moved to a ranch in Sunland where she was recognized nationally for her beautiful rose gardens. Flip became an accomplished equestrian participating in dressage events throughout the state of California. She was a lifelong supporter of animal rights and an animal rights activist, having taken in many strays and adopting several dogs from the Animal Refuge League.

Flip was a charter member of the Los Angeles Jazz Society and president for many years. In 1984, she established the Shelly Manne New Talent Award, given each year to a young jazz musician.

She was active throughout her life, participating in tap classes well into her late nineties, riding horses through the Canadian Rockies and enjoying trips to Maine spending summer days on the beach with her sisters.

Flip was predeceased by her husband of 41 years, Shelly Manne, her sisters, Marge Chafee and husband Dudley, Mildred Smith and husband Cliff, and Connie Dallaire and husband Reggie. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

A special thank you is extended to the staff and caregivers at Ivy Park of Burbank for the care they provided during her stay.

A service will be held on June 22 at 9AM at the Old North Church at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills. Interment will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Los Angeles Jazz Society or the Burbank Animal Shelter.

Ruth Herman

March 28, 1929 - May 25, 2023

It is with sad hearts that the family of Ruth Herman, (née Moscowitz), announces her passing. She was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend who surpassed what her duties on earth had called her for during her 94 years. Ruth will be remembered for her love of family and friends, elegance, grace,

constant generosity, and kindness to those in need.

Ruth was predeceased by the love of her life, Lawrence Herman.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Chabad of Bel Air, 2934 1/2 Beverly Glen Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90077

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Los Angeles Times

Gary W Major

June 16, 1947 - April 24, 2023

Gary Major was born June 16, 1947, in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, son of the late Frank and Bettie Major. He passed away April 24, 2023, after a short bout with cancer.

Gary is survived by his sister, Frannie, her husband, Howard, their sons Gavin and Aaron and their families, his Uncle Bobby and Aunt Bunny, their sons Chris and Cody and their families. Also, his sweetheart of many years, Susan Miller.

A Celebration of Life will be on the afternoon of June 29 at Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club on 22nd Street in San Pedro. It is a casual event – bring out your Hawaiian shirts to help us celebrate knowing this wonderful individual, Gary Major.

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
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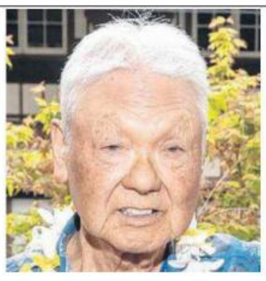


Warren M. Miyashiro

Warren M. Miyashiro was born in Kaikea, Big Island on 4/27/1929. 7th of 10 children. Graduated from McKinley HS in 1947. Married Helen in 1954. Raised 6 children. Master Composter at OVF. Died 5/26 at home. Predeceased by daughter Joan. Funeral Mass on 6/17 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 9am. Reception at 11am. Aloha attire requested.

Dr. James P. Rosenblum, MD

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
mountsinaiparks.org

Wayne Katsufumi SHIMOHARA

(78) passed away on May 3, 2023 in Harbor City, CA. He is predeceased by his parents, Frank and Rushie Shimohara and his siblings, Koji and Nancy Shimohara, and survived by his wife, Evelyn Shimohara; sons, Kevin (Maria) and Cary Shimohara; grandchildren, Tyler, Sean, Peyton, Kaitlyn and Chase Shimohara; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives. A private funeral service was held on Saturday, June 10, 2023 at Gardena Buddhist Church. www.kubotamortuary.com (213) 749-1449

Rita Stearn

April 22, 1930 - May 30, 2023

Funeral and Interment at
Hillside Memorial Park
6001 W. Centinela Ave.
Thurs., June 15, 10 a.m.

Lee Swartz

December 14, 1927 - June 3, 2023

Leatrice "Lee" Swartz passed June 3rd at the age of 95. She moved to California with her parents Theodore & Rosalind Weiss where she attended Dorsey High and UCLA and met "Gene", her husband and best friend for 64 years. They were partners in everything. She played an integral part in all business and stood by "her man" through thick and thin. She was a strong, competent, determined and classy woman. She made things look easy, even though life was not always a picnic.

Lee was a dedicated wife to Gene, loving mother to Steve & Debbi and Chloe (her puppy), an awesome mother-in-law to Terrah, Lewis and Robert; a cool grandmother to Donald and Devin and a doting niece for her 2nd mom "Aunt Adelaide" who she said, "made her life very exciting".

Lee cared about Democracy and loved to shop, read, travel, watch movies and play cards. She will be loved and missed by all who knew her! In lieu of flowers, please donate to Planned Parenthood or the charity of your choice.

A Private Service will be held at Mount Sinai on June 16th. Lee's Celebration of Life will be held at Palm Court Culver City on June 17 at 11:30am.

latimes.com/placeobituary

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Clouds linger: A deep marine layer will remain in place despite an upper-level low moving farther away to the east. Low clouds from the coast through the valleys and Inland Empire will start the day, with only limited clearing for some inland areas later. Two additional upper lows are expected to move across the area Wednesday through Friday, causing the cloudy conditions to persist.

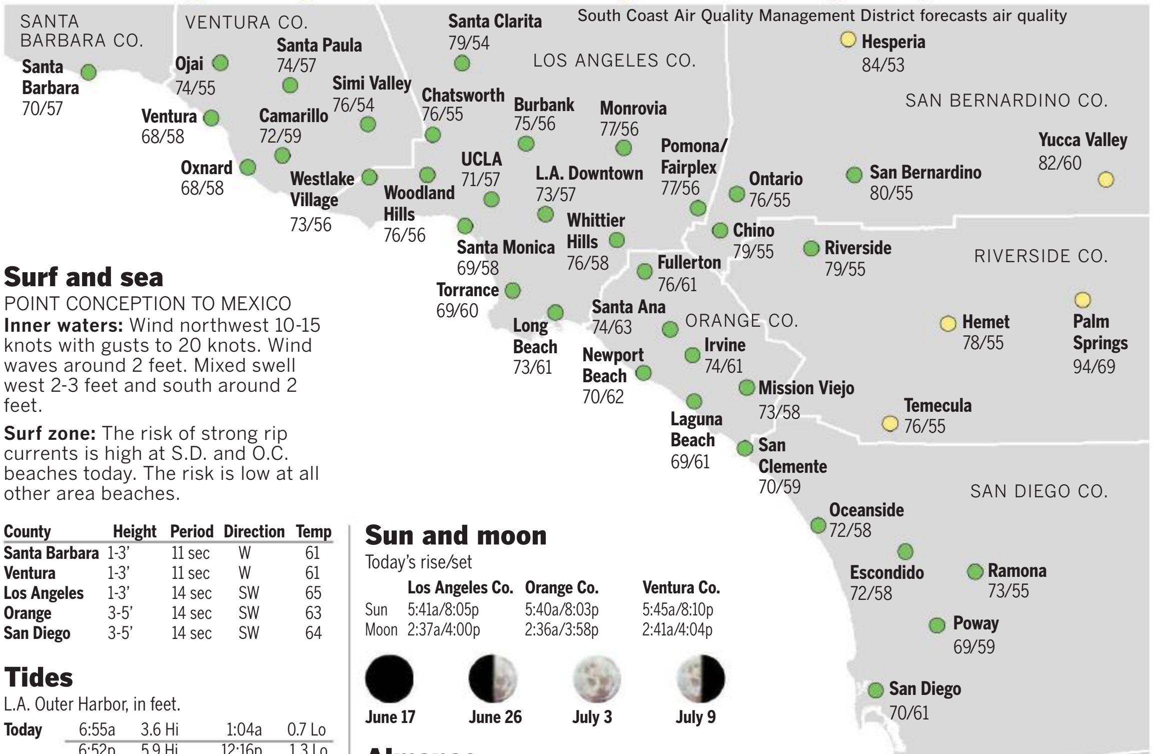
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	73|57 Low clouds clearing		76|55 Sunshine and cool		69|58 Low clouds clearing		64|37 A shower		94|69 Breezy	
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	72/60	Mostly sunny	76/57	Sun	70/59	Showers	67/39	Breezy	97/69
Thursday	Clouds, sun	73/61	Mostly sunny	75/56	Sun	70/58	A shower	68/41	Sunny	95/71
Friday	Mostly cloudy	75/61	Partly sunny	81/59	Mostly cloudy	71/59	T-shower	69/41	Partly sunny	99/71
Saturday	Partly sunny	75/62	Some sun	83/62	Clouds, sun	71/61	Showers	69/43	Breezy	103/70

Air quality

● Good ○ Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind northwest 10-15 knots with gusts to 20 knots. Wind waves around 2 feet. Mixed swell west 2-3 feet and south around 2 feet.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is high at S.D. and O.C. beaches today. The risk is low at all other area beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	11 sec	W	61
Ventura	1-3'	11 sec	W	61
Los Angeles	1-3'	14 sec	SW	65
Orange	3-5'	14 sec	SW	63
San Diego	3-5'	14 sec	SW	64

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	6:55a	3.6 Hi	1:04a	0.7 Lo
	6:52p	5.9 Hi	12:16p	1.3 Lo
Wed.	8:04a	3.5 Hi	1:57a	0.0 Lo
	7:27p	6.1 Hi	12:58p	1.6 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 10	Phoenix, 10
Los Angeles, 10	San Francisco, 10

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	5:41a/8:05p	5:40a/8:03p	5:45a/8:10p
Moon	2:37a/4:00p	2:36a/3:58p	2:41a/4:04p

June 17 June 26 July 3 July 9

Almanac

Monday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	71/62	71/62	66/56
Normal high/low	76/61	78/62	71/55
High/low a year ago	78/62	79/63	66/58
Record high/date	100/1979	86/2021	92/1979
Record low/date	47/1894	57/2017	48/1980

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	28.03	21.35	26.61
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.34
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	14.08	11.66	15.89
Humidity (high/low)	80/54	89/58	86/65

California cities

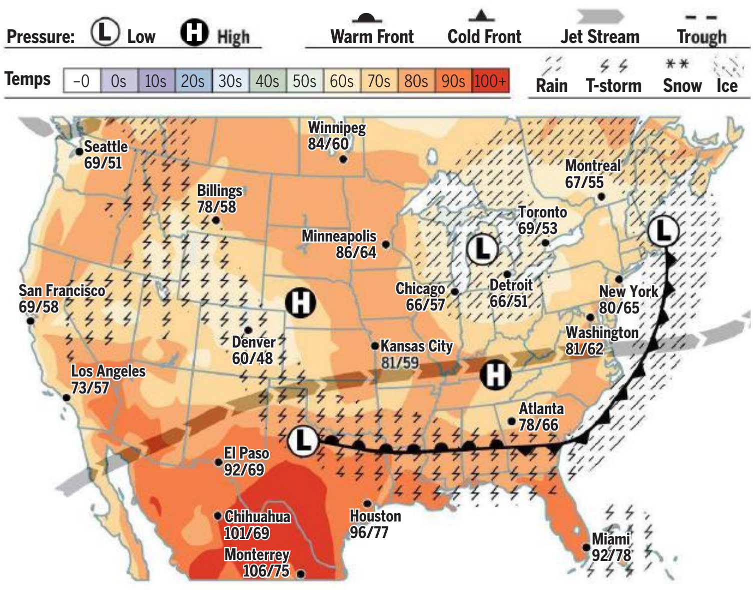
City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
Anaheim	74	61	.02	76	60	75	63
Avalon/Catalina	58	54	--	61	53	61	54
Bakersfield	84	59	--	88	67	90	68
Barstow	88	59	--	91	67	93	67
Big Bear Lake	63	39	.01	64	37	67	39
Bishop	79	50	--	86	54	83	56
Burbank	67	59	--	75	56	73	57
Camarillo	69	55	--	72	59	72	59
Chatsworth	69	57	--	76	55	75	57
Chino	70	59	.01	79	55	80	59
Compton	70	60	--	73	60	73	62
Dana Point	67	60	.02	70	60	69	60
Death Valley	99	75	--	102	91	103	90
Del Mar	67	57	.05	64	61	63	61
Escondido	74	59	.01	72	58	73	58
Eureka	60	52	--	58	49	59	47
Fallbrook	71	59	--	73	57	73	58
Fresno	84	61	--	88	66	90	64
Fullerton	71	62	--	76	61	74	64
Hemet	65	56	--	78	55	79	55
Hesperia	77	54	--	84	53	85	55
Huntington Beach	72	63	--	70	61	68	61
Idyllwild	57	40	--	68	52	69	52
Irvine	70	60	.01	74	61	73	63

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	73	62	--	73	57	72	60
L.A. Int'l. Airport	70	61	--	70	60	70	60
Laguna Beach	70	60	.07	69	61	69	62
Lancaster	76	56	--	84	64	85	60
Long Beach	71	62	--	73	61	72	64
Mammoth Lakes	59	41	.32	68	44	70	44
Mission Viejo	65	57	--	73	58	71	58
Monrovia	66	57	--	77	56	75	57
Monterey	63	54	--	68	59	67	59
Mt. Wilson	xx	xx	--	57	47	57	47
Needles	93	67	.09	97	75	100	75
Newport Beach	66	60	.06	70	62	69	63
Northridge	70	57	--	77	56	76	57
Oakland	69	57	Tr	69	57	69	57
Oceanside	72	60	.11	72	58	72	61
Ojai	65	56	.02	74	55	74	57
Ontario	68	58	Tr	76	55	77	57
Palm Springs	86	66	--	94	69	97	69
Pasadena	67	58	.13	74	56	72	58
Paso Robles	70	55	--	79	53	79	55
Redding	87	64	--	91	66	94	65
Riverside	65	55	.18	79	55	77	56
Sacramento	77	56	--	82	57	84	56
San Bernardino	68	57	.02	80	55	80	56

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Wed. Hi	Lo
San Diego	69	60	Tr	70	61	69	62
San Francisco	70	57	Tr	69	58	70	57
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	76	58	74	59
San Jose	76	57	--	79	58	81	56
San Luis Obispo	67	56	--	71	54	72	57
Santa Ana	71	62	.02	74	63	73	64
Santa Barbara	69	61	--	70	57	69	60
Santa Clarita	67	55	--	79	54	79	56
Santa Monica Pier	68	60	--	69	58	70	59
Santa Paula	64	56	--	74	57	74	59
Santa Rosa	70	54	.01	72	55	70	55
Simi Valley	66	56	--	76	54	75	56
Tahoe Valley	61	41	.21	65	46	70	45
Temecula	70	58	--	76	55	76	57
Thousand Oaks	65	56	--	73	56	73	57
Torrance	72	61	--	69	60	69	61
UCLA	68	60	--	71	57	70	59
Van Nuys	71	61	--	78	56	76	59
Ventura	66	56	--	68	58	67	59
Whittier Hills	72	61	.01	76	58	75	62
Woodland Hills	70	58	--	76	56	74	57
Wrightwood	61	43	--	67	49	67	50
Yorba Linda	71	59	.06	76	58	75	60
Yosemite Valley	70	49	--	71	51	73	50

Today in North America

More storms in western mountains: Thunderstorms will form over parts of the Rockies and Sierra Nevada. Storms will rumble over parts of the Southeast and Southern Plains. Chilly air with showers and thunderstorms will span the Great Lakes as the East Coast clears up.



U.S. cities

MONDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 107 in Cotulla, Texas **Low** 25 in Pahaska, Wyo.

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	85	64	Tr	75	58	Cy
Albuquerque	83	59	--	82	57	Su
Anchorage	54	47	.03	56	47	R
Aspen	61	43	.07	60	38	Ts
Atlanta	81	66	.18	78	66	Ts
Austin	95	73	--	95	75	Pc
Baltimore	81	73	.14	82	58	Su
Boise	84	60	.05	84	56	Pc
Boston	81	63	--	70	58	Pc
Buffalo	69	60	.55	68	54	Sh
Burlington, Vt.	87	64	Tr	69	57	Sh
Charleston, S.C.	88	69	.18	88	70	Cy
Charlotte	83	67	.66	79	60	Pc
Chicago	70	49	.02	66	57	Sh
Cincinnati	69	58	.03	74	59	Pc
Cleveland	66	57	.89	63	55	Sh
Columbia, S.C.	87	68	.06	85	68	Pc
Columbus	71	58	.32	68	56	R
Dallas/Ft.Worth	87	71	.08	85	71	Ts
Denver	65	52	.27	60	48	Ts
Detroit	65	53	.18	66	51	Ts
El Paso	96	77	--	92	69	Pc
Eugene	89	51	--	79	46	Pc
Fort Myers	91	77	.14	93	79	Pc
Hartford	82	61	.03	78	58	Pc
Honolulu	89	77	--	87	76	Sh
Houston	95	75	--	96	77	Pc
Indianapolis	67	53	Tr	72	58	R
Jacksonville, Fla.	91	71	Tr	93	71	Ts
Kansas City	74	51	--	81	59	Cy
Knoxville	78	66	.82	78	60	Pc
Las Vegas	85	68	Tr	93	75	Pc
Louisville	72	61	.11	79	64	Pc
Medford	92	59	--	89	54	Su
Memphis	77	65	.01	80	68	Ts
Miami	89	80	.33	92	78	Ts
Milwaukee	70	46	--	62	55	Sh
Minneapolis	82	55	--	86	64	Su
Nashville	73	63	Tr	80	60	Pc
New Orleans	94	77	--	94	80	Sh
New York	78	68	.16	80	65	Su
Norfolk	87	72	.02	78	65	Su
Oklahoma City	66	62	.47	77	62	Cy
Omaha	78	45	--	86	61	Pc
Orlando	94	73	--	95	76	Pc
Philadelphia	84	69	.58	80	62	Su
Phoenix	93	71	--	95	74	Su
Pittsburgh	65	61	.33	69	54	Sh
Portland, Ore.	89	62	--	75	53	Pc
Providence	74	58	.12	76	58	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	90	69	.01	82	61	Su
Reno	73	53	.32	79	58	Ts
Richmond	83	68	.02	83	57	Su
St. Louis	74	58	--	84	65	Su
Salt Lake City	77	60	--	76	62	Ts

City	Monday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	83	57	--	69	51	Pc
Tampa	91	79	--	93	81	Su
Tucson	92	62	--	92	64	Su
Tulsa	76	61	--	83	64	Ts
Washington, D.C.	80	72	.23	81	62	Su
Wichita	78	60	--	82	62	Cy
World						
Acapulco	91	76	--	91	77	Su
Amsterdam	84	66	--	83	59	Su
Athens	81	66	.06	81	65	Pc
Bangkok	95	82	.04	94	81	Ts
Barcelona	77	68	--	78	65	Ts
Berlin	79	55	--	73	54	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	95	70	--	91	72	Su
Cairo	96	77	--	93	73	Pc
Dubai	106	90	--	104	87	Su
Dublin	70	55	.20	74	53	Pc
Havana	88	73	.24	91	74	Ts
Ho Chi Minh City	93	81	.21	91	79	Ts
Hong Kong	90	80	.70	92	81	Ts
Istanbul	75	66	.02	76	63	Pc
Jerusalem	78	62	--	79	64	Sh
Johannesburg	62	44	.11	57	41	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	93	77	.13	93	76	Ts
Lima	76	67	--	73	66	Pc
London	82	63	--	85	55	Su
Madrid	84	59	--	75	57	Ts
Mecca	108	86	--	109	84	Su
Mexico City	88	59	--	90	59	Su
Montreal	84	66	.06	67	55	Pc
Moscow	66	45	--	71	50	Pc
Mumbai	93	79	.04	92	82	Ts
New Delhi	104	84	--	106	86	Su
Paris	82	64	.05	85	57	Su
Prague	74	50	--	69	47	Cy
Rome	80	64	--	79	63	Ts
Seoul	81	63	.09	80	62	Sh
Singapore	90	82	.54	90	79	Ts
Taipei City	86	78	.09	89	75	Ts
Tokyo	72	70	.37	81	71	Pc
Vancouver	70	57	--	65	52	Sh
Vienna	77	55	--	71	50	Pc

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Monday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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U.S. Open at L.A. Country Club: Thursday's first-round tee times

STARTING ON HOLE 1

6:45 a.m.: Omar Morales (a); Deon Germishuys; Jacob Solomon
6:56 a.m.: Ryan Gerard; Yuto Katsuragawa; Michael Brennan (a)
7:07 a.m.: Hayden Buckley; Adam Svensson; Pablo Larrazábal
7:18 a.m.: Carson Young; Dylan Wu; Roger Sloan
7:29 a.m.: Ryo Ishikawa; Kevin Streelman; Matthieu Pavon
7:40 a.m.: Shane Lowry; Justin Thomas; Tommy Fleetwood
7:51 a.m.: Sungjae Im; K.H. Lee; J.T. Poston
8:02 a.m.: Gary Woodland; Adam Scott; Corey Conners
8:13 a.m.: Collin Morikawa; Max Homa; Scottie Scheffler
8:24 a.m.: Denny McCarthy; Joel Dahmen; Adam Hadwin
8:35 a.m.: Matthew McClean (a); Seamus Power; Ryan Fox
8:46 a.m.: Mac Meissner; Barclay Brown (a); Gunn Charoenkul
8:57 a.m.: Alexander Yang (a); Jesse Schutte; Andy Svoboda
12:15 p.m.: Brent Grant; Vincent Norrman; Charley Hoffman
12:26 p.m.: Simon Forsstrom; Carlos Ortiz; Maxwell Moldovan (a)
12:37 p.m.: Eric Cole; Thriston Lawrence; Adam Schenk
12:48 p.m.: Luke List; Wilco Nienaber; Alejandro Del Rey
12:59 p.m.: Adrian Meronk; Harris English; Joaquin Niemann
1:10 p.m.: Alex Noren, Wyndham Clark, Austin Eckroat
1:21 p.m.: Kurt Kitayama; Cam Davis; Russell Henley
1:32 p.m.: Cameron Smith; Sam Bennett; Matt Fitzpatrick
1:43 p.m.: Billy Horschel; Chris Kirk; Brian Harman
1:54 p.m.: Brooks Koepka; Hideki Matsuyama; Rory McIlroy
2:05 p.m.: Sebastián Muñoz; Nick Taylor; Taylor Montgomery
2:16 p.m.: Olin Browne Jr.; David Puig; Karl Vilips (a)
2:27 p.m.: Corey Pereira; Isaac Simmons (a); J.J. Grey

STARTING ON HOLE 10

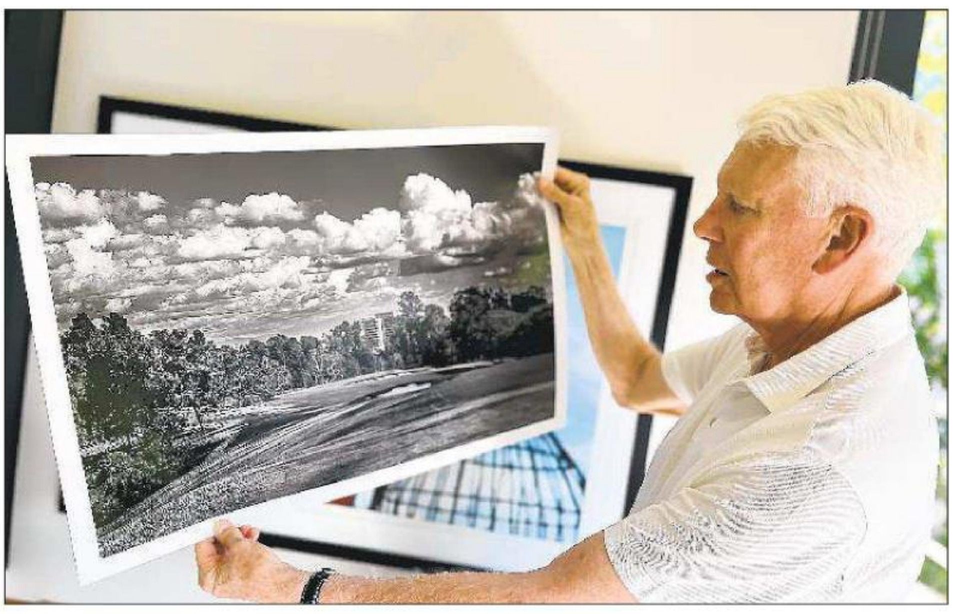
6:45 a.m.: Berry Henson; Ryutaro Nagano; Hank Lebioda
6:56 a.m.: Michael Kim; Jordan Smith; Wenyi Ding (a)
7:07 a.m.: Scott Stallings; Preston Summerhays (a); Lucas Herbert
7:18 a.m.: Jens Dantorp; Patrick Rodgers; Ryan Armour
7:29 a..m.: Thomas Pieters; Aaron Wise; Gordon Sargent (a)
7:40 a.m.: Bryson DeChambeau; Francesco Molinari; Tyrrell Hatton
7:51 a.m.: Tom Hoge; Sergio Garcia; Sepp Straka
8:02 a.m.: Justin Rose; Rickie Fowler; Jason Day
8:13 a.m.: Patrick Reed; Matt Kuchar; Si Woo Kim
8:24 a.m.: Xander Schauffele; Viktor Hovland; Jon Rahm
8:35 a.m.: Martin Kaymer; Stewart Cink; Michael Thorbjornsen (a)
8:46 a.m.: David Horsey; Brendan Valdez (a); Paul Barjon
8:57 a.m.: Jordan Gumberg; Kyle Mueller; Bastien Amat (a)
12:15 p.m.: Ross Fisher; Nico Echavarria; Paul Haley II
12:26 p.m.: Nick Dunlap (a); Nick Hardy; Sam Stevens
12:37 p.m.: Taylor Pendrith; Aldrich Potgieter (a); Romain Langasque
12:48 p.m.: Andrew Putnam; Victor Perez; Abraham Ancer
12:59 p.m.: Phil Mickelson; Padraig Harrington; Keegan Bradley
1:10 p.m.: Mito Pereira; Emiliano Grillo; Mateo Fernandez de Oliveira (a)
1:21 p.m.: Tom Kim; Sahith Theegala; Cameron Young
1:32 p.m.: Sam Burns; Dustin Johnson; Keith Mitchell
1:43 p.m.: Tony Finau; Jordan Spieth; Patrick Cantlay
1:54 p.m.: Davis Thompson; Min Woo Lee; Justin Suh
2:05 p.m.: Taylor Moore; Mackenzie Hughes; Ben Carr (a)
2:16 p.m.: Patrick Cover; David Nyfjall (a); Frankie Capan III
2:27 p.m.: Austen Truslow; Christian Cavaliere (a); Alex Schaake

(a) - amateur

He's the club's signature shotmaker

L.A. Country Club's Light has spent last decade capturing its beauty with his lens.

By Sam Farmer



SAM FARMER Los Angeles Times

JOHN LIGHT, holding up his black-and-white photo of No. 16, has made L.A. Country Club's landscape his passion and calls it "one of the great gems of golf."

Millions of golf fans will get their first look at Los Angeles Country Club this week, when the North Course plays host to its first U.S. Open.

John Light, a member of the club for the last half-century, has been documenting that undulating terrain through his camera lens for more than a decade.

About 75 of his photographs, many of them black and white, adorn the walls of the LACC clubhouse, capturing both the majesty and minute detail of the North and South courses.

"You get back there in some places on the North Course and you can't see the city," Light said. "It's like you're in the middle of nowhere.

"It's gorgeous and stunning."

Light got his first camera as a young attorney at Latham & Watkins but was mostly an occasional hobbyist through his decades as an antitrust and corporate lawyer. He got serious about photography in retirement and has an extensive portfolio covering all sorts of subjects.

He grew interested in golf photography when architect Gil Hanse restored the course in 2010 and through the 2017 Walker Cup, which LACC hosted.

"My favorite picture of the golf course is a black-and-white shot I took of No. 11," he said. "There was a boiling array of clouds above the hole, and if you look really closely you can see a little plane pulling a banner."

Light, 82, said he's energized about the golf world seeing the club and course for the first time this week.

"I've been an advocate for this place all of my adult life," he said.

"I've told people, 'If you haven't seen it, you've missed one of the great gems of golf.' It's one of the greatest courses in the world."

And this week, the pictures come to life.

Koepka taking aim at his sixth major title

[**U.S. Open,** from B10]

"I've never seen anybody be able to do what he did," said ElAttrache, team physician for the Rams and Dodgers. "On one hand, I'm extremely proud and impressed that he did that. But I think I could have talked him out of coming back so quickly, because it was impossible to see what was coming down the line."

Not only did Koepka almost immediately resume play, but he also played well, finishing in the top eight at the final three majors of 2021. All that eventually caught up to him, however, and he wallowed through a slump last year that led to his decision to leave the tour for the staggering $100 million from LIV.

"Even though he wasn't 100% when he came back from surgery, what he did in that string of majors showed how gritty and determined and talented he is," ElAttrache said. "But the moral of the story is all those qualities that enabled him to do that, there was probably a downside to those same qualities."

Koepka missed the cut at the Masters last year, finished 55th at the PGA and U.S. Open, and missed the cut at the British Open.

At the time, it appeared he had lost the strength, flexibility and trust in his right knee to generate the necessary power in his lower body or even squat to read putts. Asked in April whether the decision to leave for LIV would have been more challenging had he been fully healthy at the time, Koepka conceded: "Yeah, probably, if I'm being completely honest."

Koepka is nothing if not brutally honest. He has the build of an NFL safety and the attitude to match. He doesn't hide his emotions; his body language betrays those from three fairways away. He's more likely to stomp on toes than walk on eggshells.

For instance, in 2019 at the PGA — which he wound up winning — he described his approach to the sport's four biggest tournaments.

"Sometimes the majors are the easiest ones to win," he said. "Half the people shoot themselves out of it, and mentally I know I can beat most of them, and then from there it's those guys left, who's going to play good and who can win. I don't see any reason it can't get to double digits."

Many golf fans might view Koepka as a villain. His doctor is not among them.

"L.A. would be very proud if a guy like Brooks were to win the Open here," ElAttrache said. "He's a hard-working guy, a comeback story, someone tough enough to overcome adversity to get back to the top of his game. Maybe he's made some decisions that looking back on he might have done differently, but he's willing to admit it."

FRANCISCO SECO Associated Press

PEP GUARDIOLA guided Manchester City to a coveted UEFA Champions League title on Sunday. A job coaching the U.S. men's national team could be intriguing for the 52-year-old ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

Guardiola should just move on

[**Baxter,** from B10]

Only seven other clubs have done that, including Guardiola's 2008-09 Barcelona team, which makes him the only manager in history to have done it twice. Yet none of those teams repeated the feat within the next five seasons, which means likely City has no way to go but down.

Guardiola's next season in Manchester will be his eighth. That's twice as long as he's spent in any other job. And he's constructed a dynasty there, winning five of the last six Premier League titles. Over that same span, he won six domestic cups and played in two Champions League finals. And the team is set up to continue succeeding: Of the 13 players Guardiola used in Saturday's final, only one, Ilkay Gundogan, is out of contract and just three are older than 29.

But the bill for all that success is about to come due. After a four-year investigation, the Premier League has charged Manchester City with breaking financial fair play rules more than 100 times between 2009 and 2018.

The rules are designed to ensure clubs don't spend more than they earn, preventing deep-pocketed owners such as City's Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan from drowning the rest of the competition in their oil money.

The EPL says City provided inaccurate financial information to make it look as if it was complying with the rules when it was flouting them instead. The team has denied any wrongdoing and the case has been referred to an independent commission for final judgment, with the possible punishment beginning with a points deduction and escalating from there.

For Guardiola, the embarrassment could be worse than the penalties.

When the violations first were revealed in February, Guardiola promised to resign if assurances he received from club leadership that the charges were untrue proved to be lies. He has since reversed course and promised to stay, just as he did three years ago when City was charged by UEFA, the continental governing body for soccer, with cooking the books. The team appealed UEFA's findings to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and won.

The club may not be so lucky this time. So why would Guardiola want to stay and risk his reputation amid the maelstrom that is sure to come?

Just 52 and a winner of three Champions League crowns, 11 league titles and 13 domestic cups in Spain's La Liga, the German Bundesliga and the EPL, Guardiola immediately would become the hottest commodity in the coaching market if he stepped away. Still ambitious despite having conquered the top three leagues in Europe, Guardiola undoubtedly would be handed a blank check by Nasser bin Ghanim Al-Khelaifi, another oil-rich owner whose own quest of winning a Champions League title at Paris Saint-Germain repeatedly has ended in frustration.

Or perhaps, after his astounding success with proven teams such as Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester City, the chance to build something new in Italy's Serie A would appeal to him.

But what about leaving the club game altogether for a national team and the chance to win the sport's biggest prize, a World Cup?

Of the top 20 teams in FIFA's latest world rankings just two, Brazil and the U.S., have interim managers three years out from the next World Cup. And neither is likely to wait until 2025, a year before the tournament, to hire a permanent manager, even if it is Guardiola.

The U.S. job could be particularly intriguing. Although the federation's proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year calls for an operating deficit of more than $9.4 million, it also projects record revenues of $172.7 million. Certainly the federation's pockets are deep enough to make a run at Guardiola, perhaps even funding it from sponsorship tie-ins linked to the World Cup's return to the U.S. in 2026.

The low risk and high reward of coaching the U.S. at home might be just the kind of challenge Guardiola is looking for. It's low risk because the U.S. has gone beyond the round of 16 just once in the modern era, meaning simply getting out of the group stage could be considered a success. The reward, on the other hand, would be exceptionally high if he defies expectations and takes the team beyond the final 16.

The open U.S. job previously has been linked to other big-name coaches, among them Zinedine Zidane and José Mourinho, but those rumors were always more conjecture than fact. Guardiola is an even bigger long shot.

For starters, the chasm between the club game and international soccer can be difficult to bridge, as Guardiola surely knows. At City — and at Barcelona and Bayern Munich before that — Guardiola had the money and support to go out and buy the players that fit his demanding system. Of the 13 players Guardiola used in Saturday's final, only one, substitute Phil Foden, came up through City's academy system. The team spent more than $740 million in transfer fees to acquire the others.

That approach won't work with a national team, where you're limited to players who carry the same country's passport.

Additionally, club coaches work with their players every day for more than 10 months each season, an environment that favors Guardiola's emotional and motivational approach.

Although his demand for perfection can be abrasive, he is passionate and warm with his players, and that works best when players experience it on a daily basis.

National team coaches, on the other hand, are rarely on the field with their players more than 10 days at a time. That can make it difficult to build a relationship, much less teach a complicated playing style.

Despite his promises, Guardiola has a choice to make: Should he stay or should he go now?

The next few months could prove to be another epic drama.

U.S. is hoping its Gold Cup roster has the right mix

By Kevin Baxter

LAFC's Aaron Long, a World Cup veteran, and Galaxy teenager Jalen Neal were among 23 players named Monday to the U.S. roster for the CONCACAF Gold Cup, which kicks off June 24 with the U.S., the defending champion, facing Jamaica in Chicago. The tournament final will be played July 16 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

Eighteen players on the Gold Cup roster are not on the team that will face Mexico on Thursday in the Nations League semifinals in Las Vegas, meaning interim manager B.J. Callaghan will get a look at 42 players this month.

"We're trying to expose as many players as possible to tournament competition," Callaghan said in a statement.

"It will be valuable for the group moving forward."

The Gold Cup roster is slightly older but slightly less experienced than the Nations League team, with an average of three fewer international appearances per player. It also features seven players, including Long, who were on the team for last year's World Cup. But it's primarily a domestic roster, with 16 of the 23 players coming from MLS clubs. The Nations League roster has just four MLS players.

At 19, Neal, one of nine Gold Cup invitees who made their senior team this year, is the youngest player on the Gold Cup team. He is also one of 11 players with three or fewer national team caps. Inter Miami defender DeAndre Yedlin, a two-time World Cup veteran, is the most experienced player on the roster with 78 international appearances.

Six dual nationals — Cade Cowell, Julian Gressel, Aidan Morris, Gaga Slonina, Alan Soñora and Brandon Vazquez — will be cap-tied to the U.S. if they appear in a Gold Cup match.

"It's a roster that has a good mix of veteran players that have World Cup experience and younger players [that] have earned an opportunity to come into camp and represent the United States," Callaghan said. "Some have a lot of experiences that we continue to build on while others are just starting out."

The U.S. was drawn into Group A for the Gold Cup. In addition to Jamaica, it will play Nicaragua and whichever country emerges from a four-team playoff involving Curacao, French Guiana, Sint Maarten and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Mexico was drawn into Group B for the 16-team competition and will open June 25 against Honduras at NRG Stadium in Houston. Mexico also will face Qatar and Haiti in group play.

Nicaragua was booted from the Gold Cup for fielding an ineligible player in eight international matches. Trinidad & Tobago will take its place and join the U.S. in Group A.

JULIO CORTEZ Associated Press

LAFC'S Aaron Long, right, will bring some World Cup experience to the U.S. Gold Cup roster.

U.S. Gold Cup roster

GOALKEEPERS
Sean Johnson (Toronto FC), Gaga Slonina (Chelsea), Matt Turner (Arsenal)

DEFENDERS
DeJuan Jones (New England Revolution), **AARON LONG (LAFC),** Matt Miazga (FC Cincinnati), **JALEN NEAL (GALAXY),** Bryan Reynolds (Roma), Miles Robinson (Atlanta United), John Tolkin (New York Red Bulls), DeAndre Yedlin (Inter Miami)

MIDFIELDERS
Gianluca Busio (Venezia), Djordjevic Mihailovic (AZ Alkmaar), Aidan Morris (Columbus Crew), Cristian Roldan (Seattle Sounders), James Sands (New York City FC), Alan Soñora (FC Juárez)

FORWARDS
Cade Cowell (San Jose Earthquakes), Jesús Ferreira (FC Dallas), Julian Gressel (Vancouver Whitecaps), Jordan Morris (Seattle Sounders), Brandon Vazquez (FC Cincinnati), Alex Zendejas (Club América)

Former Kings and Ducks close to hoisting Stanley Cup

[**Elliott,** from B10]

Arena. A sixth game, if necessary, would be played Friday in Florida.

"There is a bit of a slow build. I wouldn't say pressure, but expectations on yourself and on your team, it does build up over the course of the playoffs," Quick said Monday of being tantalizingly close to hoisting the Cup. "But at the same time, it's something that we had in L.A. and I believe is here — and that's a tremendous leadership group that kind of steers the ship when those moments arise.

"It is a very, very calming influence throughout the locker room, and especially just like when we were able to win 16 games then, and what we're trying to do now."

Vegas defenseman Alec Martinez played in front of Quick and scored the double-overtime goal that clinched the Cup for the Kings in 2014. The Golden Knights have three other Cup champions on their roster: Phil Kessel, who won with Pittsburgh in 2016 and 2017; Chandler Stephenson, who contributed to Washington's triumph over Vegas in 2018; and Alex Pietrangelo, who won with St. Louis in 2019.

Martinez, who was traded by the Kings to Vegas in 2020 for two second-round draft picks, is hoping those pressure-tested players can dictate a calm tone Tuesday.

> 'It's something that we had in L.A. and I believe is here — and that's a tremendous leadership group.'
>
> — JONATHAN QUICK, Golden Knights goalie

The Panthers have two Cup winners on their roster: Eric Staal, who won with Carolina in 2006, and Carter Verhaeghe, a champion with Tampa Bay in 2020.

"Obviously, experience helps, regardless of the situation, whether it's the Stanley Cup Final or any other aspect of life," Martinez said. "I think that having a few guys, or more than a few guys that have been here before, that certainly helps."

The Kings' playoff journey this year was over before it could get rolling, halted in six games by the Edmonton Oilers. The Ducks never got to the gate, missing the playoffs for the fifth straight season. Which makes it odd that both teams are well represented in this Cup Final.

The Golden Knights rely on former Ducks defenseman Shea Theodore, who has averaged 20 minutes' ice time per game during the playoffs. The Ducks, in a bind while composing their protected list for the expansion draft that stocked Vegas' roster because several of their players had no-trade or no-move clauses that required them to be protected, traded Theodore to Vegas in return for the Golden Knights' promise they wouldn't claim Josh Manson or Sami Vatanen. Manson and Vatanen are long gone. Theodore has thrived.

"It's been nice to have a home here, have an organization that believes in me and believes in our group, and it's just been a lot of fun," Theodore said.

The Ducks also are represented by forward William Karlsson, who has blossomed since he began his career in Anaheim and has scored 11 goals during these playoffs.

Former King Brayden McNabb has become an impressive shot-blocker and physical force for the Golden Knights, who chose him in the expansion draft. His Kings career "feels like a lifetime ago," he said, but he has fond memories. "It's weird. You get traded and you're so close with a group, then you have new best friends," he said. "That was a pretty special group. It was a fun group and I'm lucky I was able to be a part of it.

"This group here has been amazing. It's been a lot of fun. We've had good groups in the past, but this group has created a bond that's pretty special. It would be fun to finish it off and have a trophy."

Vegas' Kings alumni chapter also includes former Kings Michael Amadio and Ben Hutton, former Kings coach John Stevens as an assistant to coach Bruce Cassidy, and director of goaltending Sean Burke, who finished his career with the Kings in 2007.

The Panthers have several faces familiar to Southern California hockey fans. Former Duck Brandon Montour leads them with an average of 27 minutes of ice time and has made big contributions offensively, but the talented defenseman didn't participate in what Florida coach Paul Maurice termed an optional practice Monday. Maurice declined to provide information on Montour, Matthew Tkachuk or Radko Gudas, who also were absent. Tkachuk, the Panthers' leading scorer, missed chunks of the second and third periods of Game 4 because of an apparent injury.

Florida's coaching staff includes assistant coach Jamie Kompon, whose name is on the Cup as an assistant to Darryl Sutter with the Kings in 2012, and its defense corps includes Josh Mahura, who was put on waivers by the Ducks in October but has won a regular job with Florida.

Mahura, of course, hopes the Panthers can rally against Vegas, as they did in erasing a 3-1 deficit against top-seeded Boston in the first round. "We still feel good. We believe in ourselves," Mahura said.

"We've been doing that for a while now. Every guy knows every guy beside him is battling and we're going to put our best effort forward [Tuesday] and see where it falls."

True to form, Quick wouldn't take the bait when asked about being so close to becoming a three-time Cup champion. "We only have 15 wins right now and it takes 16," he said.

As he and Martinez well know. And the Ducks and Kings will have to relearn someday.

STANLEY CUP FINAL

WC2 Florida vs. P1 Vegas

Golden Knights lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Vegas 5, Florida 2
Gm 2	Vegas 7, Florida 2
Gm 3	Florida 3, Vegas 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Vegas 3, Florida 2
Gm 5	Tonight at Vegas, 5
Gm 6	Friday at Florida, 5*
Gm 7	Monday at Vegas, 5*

All times PDT, p.m.; **TV:** TNT
* if necessary

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Arizona	41	25	.621	–	8-2
DODGERS	37	29	.561	3½	3-7
San Francisco	34	32	.515	6½	6-4
San Diego	31	34	.477	9	6-4
Colorado	28	40	.412	13½	4-6
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Pittsburgh	34	30	.531	–	7-3
Milwaukee	34	32	.515	1	5-5
Cincinnati	32	35	.478	3½	6-4
Chicago	28	37	.431	6½	4-6
St. Louis	27	40	.403	8½	2-8
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	40	26	.606	–	7-3
Miami	37	30	.552	3½	8-2
Philadelphia	32	34	.485	8	7-3
New York	31	35	.470	9	2-8
Washington	26	38	.406	13	3-7

Monday's results

at Detroit 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings
Colorado 4, at Boston 3, 10 innings
San Francisco 4, at St. Louis 3
Cincinnati 5, at Kansas City 4, 10 innings
at Seattle 8, Miami 1
at Arizona 9 Philadelphia 8

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	41	24	.631	–	6-4
Houston	37	29	.561	4½	4-6
ANGELS	37	31	.544	5½	7-3
Seattle	32	33	.492	9	4-6
Oakland	18	50	.265	24½	6-4
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	33	33	.500	–	4-6
Cleveland	31	34	.477	1½	6-4
Chicago	29	38	.433	4½	6-4
Detroit	27	37	.422	5	1-9
Kansas City	18	48	.273	15	1-9
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	48	21	.696	–	8-2
Baltimore	41	24	.631	5	6-4
New York	38	29	.567	9	4-6
Toronto	37	30	.552	10	7-3
Boston	33	34	.493	14	3-7

Monday's results

ANGELS 9, at Texas 6, 12 innings
at Detroit 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings
Colorado 4, at Boston 3, 10 innings
Cincinnati 5, at Kansas City 4, 10 innings
at Seattle 8, Miami 1
at Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 3

TODAY'S GAMES

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
CHI (AL)/Lynn (R)	4-6	6.72	7 p.m.
Dodgers/Gonsolin (R)	3-1	2.21	SNLA
ATL/Strider (R)	6-2	3.79	3:30 p.m.
DET/Olson (R)	0-1	2.70	
COL/Anderson (R)	0-0	2.25	4 p.m.
BOS/Crawford (R)	1-3	3.68	
NY (AL)/Severino (R)	0-1	5.75	4 p.m.
NY (NL)/Scherzer (R)	5-2	3.71	TBS
MIL/Burnes (R)	5-4	3.36	4:30 p.m.
MIN/López (R)	3-3	4.25	
CIN/Williamson (L)	0-0	5.40	5 p.m.
KC/Lyles (R)	0-10	6.84	
WAS/Corbin (L)	4-6	4.89	5 p.m.
HOU/Brown (R)	5-3	3.69	
CLE/Bibee (R)	2-1	3.05	6:30 p.m.
SD/Musgrove (R)	3-2	4.35	MLB
MIA/Cabrera (R)	5-4	4.29	6:30 p.m.
SEA/Kirby (R)	5-5	3.50	

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Angels/Barría (R)	2-2	1.85	5 p.m.
TEX/TBD	—	—	BSW
TOR/Bassitt (R)	7-4	3.29	4 p.m.
BAL/Kremer (R)	6-3	4.89	
TB/TBD	—	—	6:30 p.m.
OAK/Harris (L)	1-0	6.46	

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
SF/Cobb (R)	5-2	3.01	4:45 p.m.
STL/Flaherty (R)	3-4	4.15	
PIT/Ortiz (R)	1-2	4.23	5 p.m.
CHI/Taillon (R)	1-4	7.02	
PHI/Wheeler (R)	4-4	3.91	6:30 p.m.
ARI/Davies (R)	1-1	4.68	

ODDS

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at DODGERS	-210	Chicago White Sox	+176
at Detroit	OFF	Atlanta	OFF
at Boston	-210	Colorado	+176
at New York Mets	-142	New York Yankees	+120
at Minnesota	-120	Milwaukee	+102
at Houston	-255	Washington	+210
at Kansas City	-124	Cincinnati	+106
at Seattle	OFF	Miami	OFF
at San Diego	-164	Cleveland	+138

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Texas	-148	ANGELS	+126
at Baltimore	OFF	Toronto	OFF
at Oakland	OFF	Tampa Bay	OFF

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
San Francisco	-110	at St. Louis	-106
at Chicago	-142	Pittsburgh	+120
Philadelphia	-148	at Arizona	+126

NOTES

Ohtani leads AL in early All-Star voting

Atlanta Braves outfielder **Ronald Acuña Jr.** leads all major league players and Angels designated hitter **Shohei Ohtani** ranks second in the first balloting update for the All-Star Game on July 11 in Seattle, MLB announced Monday.

Acuña (1,086,537) leads the National League, Ohtani (924,182) the American League. The Dodgers' **Freddie Freeman** (first base) and **J.D. Martinez** (designated hitter) lead their NL positions.

Etc.

Texas pitcher **Jacob deGrom** had Tommy John surgery, and **Jon Gray** (blister) won't start Tuesday versus the Angels. ... St. Louis reliever **Ryan Helsley** went on the injured list. ... Kansas City cut outfielder **Jackie Bradley Jr.**

— WIRE REPORTS

SAM HODDE Associated Press

SHOHEI OHTANI rounds the bases after his two-run homer, his 20th of the season, in the 12th. It was his second blast of the game.

Taking heed of Ohtani's rallying cry

Slugger hits tying homer in seventh, adds a go-ahead blast in 12th to take over AL lead and power Angels.

ANGELS 9
TEXAS 6 (12 INNINGS)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Shohei Ohtani took another sweet swing and went deep again for the Angels.

After tying the score with a solo homer in the seventh, Ohtani went the opposite way for a two-run shot leading off the 12th inning to give the Angels their first lead as they rallied to beat the American League West-leading Texas Rangers 9-6 on Monday night.

"I saw the ball really well and the results came with it," Ohtani said through his interpreter.

Ohtani hit the first pitch of the 12th off Cole Ragans (2-3) over the left-field wall. It was Ohtani's eighth homer in 13 games and his 20th of the season to overtake New York Yankees star Aaron Judge for the league lead. It was his 10th career multihomer game, the second in his recent surge.

"He's on a nice little streak. It's fun to watch," manager Phil Nevin said. "I see him having a lot of fun. ... His emotion is showing."

The two-way star, who was the designated hitter in the series opener and is scheduled to pitch the finale Thursday, spread his arms while rounding second base and looking into the Angels dugout after his 12th-inning drive.

Chad Wallach then added another two-run homer for the Angels (37-31), who have won seven of eight games and are a season-best six games over .500. They still are third in the AL West, 5½ games behind Texas.

The Angels were down 5-1 after three innings, but Ohtani's homer in the seventh extended his hitting streak to a season-best nine games and tied it at 5-5.

Ohtani finished with four RBIs, pushing his season total to 50. He also had a sacrifice fly in the Angels' three-run fifth, when the other runs came in on a throwing error and a wild pitch.

Right-hander Sam Bachman (1-0) worked two scoreless innings for his first big league victory. Aaron Loup gave up an unearned run in the bottom of the 12th.

The Angels needed two standout defensive plays to get out of the 10th inning.

Runners were at second and third with the Angels' infield playing in when second baseman Luis Rengifo fielded Leody Taveras' short-hopper and threw home to get out Josh Smith. There was then a hard grounder to shortstop Zach Neto, who initially dropped it before recovering with a strong throw and an impressive pick by just-in first baseman Taylor Ward for the third out.

Ward, in his sixth big league season, had played only two innings at first base in his previous 355 games, and that was three years ago.

"I just kind of closed my eyes and stuck my glove out right there. ... Good thing it worked out," Ward said.

"The pick was phenomenal. And that's not an easy pick, as hard as Neto had to get rid of that ball to save the run," Nevin said. "Obviously that gets by, it's the end of the game."

Angels add Murphy on minor league deal

Daniel Murphy is joining the Angels on a minor league contract, the next step in a surprising comeback bid by the three-time All-Star.

ANGELS 9
RANGERS 6

Streak	Won 2	**This month**	7-4
Home	20-14	**Road**	17-17
Division	13-11	**Interleague**	9-6

Next: Tonight at Texas, 5 PDT
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Texas	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ward lf-1b	5	3	2	0	.243	Semien 2b	7	0	0	0	.288
Ohtani dh	4	2	2	4	.291	Seager ss	3	1	1	0	.348
Trout cf	3	2	1	1	.255	Lowe 1b	6	0	0	0	.265
Rendon 3b	4	0	0	0	.267	García rf	5	0	1	0	.263
Moniak lf	1	0	0	0	.297	Jung 3b	5	3	2	1	.287
Thaiss c	3	0	2	0	.285	Heim c	5	1	2	0	.280
Urshela 3b	1	0	0	0	.302	León c	1	0	0	0	.146
Drry 2b-1b	5	0	0	0	.252	Garver dh	6	0	1	1	.267
Wallach c	1	1	1	2	.273	Duran lf	3	1	1	3	.310
Renfroe rf	6	0	0	0	.242	Jankowski lf	2	0	1	0	.293
Walsh 1b	3	0	0	0	.115	Grossman	1	0	0	0	.237
Rengifo 2b	3	0	0	0	.217	Taveras cf	5	0	3	0	.302
Neto ss	5	1	2	0	.257	Totals	**49**	**6**	**12**	**5**	
Totals	**44**	**9**	**10**	**7**							

Angels	001	030	100	004	_	9	10	1
Texas	032	000	000	001	_	6	12	2

Walks—Angels 8: Ward 1, Ohtani 1, Trout 3, Rendon 1, Thaiss 2. Texas 6: Seager 3, García 1, Jung 1, Taveras 1.

Strikeouts—Angels 7: Ward 1, Ohtani 1, Drury 2, Renfroe 1, Walsh 1, Neto 1. Texas 14: Semien 2, Lowe 4, García 2, Jung 1, León 1, Garver 1, Duran 2, Jankowski 1.

E—Neto (3), García (4), Seager (3). **LOB**—Angels 11, Texas 16. **2B**—Ward (8), Neto 2 (12), Taveras (11), Garver (3), García (12). **HR**—Ohtani (19), off G.Anderson; Ohtani (20), off Ragans; Wallach (5), off Ragans; Duran (8), off T.Anderson. **RBIs**—Trout (37), Ohtani 4 (50), Wallach 2 (10), Duran 3 (28), Jung (40), Garver (10). **SB**—Taveras (6), García (6), Trout (1). **SF**—Ohtani. **DP**—Texas 2.

Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
T.Anderson	6	8	5	5	2	7	105	5.80
Devenski	1	0	0	0	2	1	24	1.93
Webb	1	1	0	0	0	1	12	2.45
Estévez	1	1	0	0	1	2	24	1.53
Bachman, W, 1-0	2	1	0	0	1	1	28	0.90
Loup	1	1	1	0	0	2	20	5.51
Texas	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Dunning	5	6	4	4	5	3	90	2.91
G.Anderson, BS, 0-2	1⅔	1	1	1	2	0	31	3.68
Sborz	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	17	3.42
W.Smith	2	0	0	0	0	2	20	2.52
Ragans, L, 2-3	1⅔	2	4	3	1	1	27	5.92
Rodríguez	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	10	3.38

Inherited runners-scored—Sborz 2-0. IBB_off Bachman (Seager). **WP**—Dunning, Ragans.

U— Ramon De Jesus, Lance Barrett, Doug Eddings, Alfonso Marquez. **T**—3:49. **Tickets sold**—26,667 (40,000).

MARINERS 8
MARLINS 1

Rookie Bryce Miller and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, Ty France, Eugenio Suárez and Tom Murphy homered, and Seattle won to open an important six-game homestand.

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Arraez 2b	4	0	0	0	.391	Crawford ss	4	2	2	0	.253
Soler dh	2	0	0	0	.255	Rodrguez cf	4	1	1	1	.245
Hampson	1	0	0	0	.241	France 1b	4	1	1	3	.283
De La Cruz lf	4	0	0	0	.290	Hrnández rf	4	1	2	1	.252
Cooper 1b	3	0	0	0	.234	Suárez 3b	4	1	2	1	.218
Sánchez rf	2	0	0	0	.270	Pollock dh	3	0	0	0	.168
Segura 3b	3	0	0	0	.192	Ford dh	1	0	0	0	.167
Berti ss	3	0	0	0	.258	Moore lf	4	0	0	0	.000
Fortes c	3	1	1	1	.231	Murphy c	4	2	2	1	.233
Davis cf	3	0	0	0	.265	Cballero 2b	2	0	0	0	.239
Totals	**28**	**1**	**1**	**1**		Totals	**34**	**8**	**10**	**7**	

Miami	000	010	000 –1	1	2
Seattle	240	010	01x –8	10	1

Walks—Miami 3: Soler 1, Cooper 1, Sánchez 1. Seattle 3: Crawford 1, Rodríguez 1, Caballero 1.

Strikeouts—Miami 7: Soler 1, De La Cruz 2, Cooper 2, Fortes 1, Davis 1. Seattle 6: Rodríguez 1, France 1, Hernández 1, Suárez 1, Moore 1, Caballero 1.

E—Luzardo (3), De La Cruz (3), Suárez (2). **LOB**—Miami 3, Seattle 6. **2B**—Crawford (13), Hernández (8), Murphy (8). **HR**—Fortes (4), off Miller; France (6), off Luzardo; Suárez (7), off Brazoban; Murphy (2), off Hoeing. **RBIs**—Fortes (13), Hernández (36), Rodríguez (37), France 3 (31), Suárez (38), Murphy (4).

Runners left in scoring position—Miami 1 (Berti); Seattle 0. RISP_Miami 0 for 2; Seattle 3 for 8.

Runners moved up—Segura. **GIDP**—Segura, Rodríguez.

DP—Miami 1 (Cooper, Berti); Seattle 1 (Caballero, France).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo, L, 5-5	4	6	6	5	1	3	81	4.17
Brazoban	2	2	1	1	1	1	32	4.01
Hoeing	2	2	1	1	1	2	34	3.12
Seattle	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Miller, W, 4-3	6	1	1	1	3	6	89	4.06
Adcock	2	0	0	0	0	0	22	0.00
Speier	1	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.28

HBP_Luzardo (Caballero).

U— Jim Wolf, Mike Muchlinski, Sean Barber, Emil Jimenez. **T**—2:14. **Tickets sold**—23,463 (47,929).

ROCKIES 4
RED SOX 3

Nick Pivetta walked Randal Grichuk to force in the go-ahead run in the 10th, Boston first baseman Triston Casas booted a potential inning-ending grounder, and Colorado prevailed.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Profar lf	5	1	3	0	.248	Duran lf	3	0	1	0	.282
Tovar ss	5	0	0	0	.248	Refsnyder lf	2	0	0	1	.275
McMhon 3b	3	2	1	0	.261	Verdugo rf	4	1	1	0	.285
Díaz c	4	0	1	1	.294	Turner dh	3	0	2	1	.270
Grichuk dh	3	0	0	1	.310	Devers 3b	4	0	0	0	.243
Jones rf	4	0	0	0	.333	Duvall cf	3	0	0	0	.381
Montes 2b	5	0	0	0	.250	Casas 1b	4	0	0	0	.197
Montero 1b	3	0	0	0	.203	Arroyo 2b	4	1	2	1	.258
Castro cf	1	0	0	0	.264	Wong c	4	1	2	0	.243
Doyle cf	3	0	1	0	.217	Hrnández ss	3	0	0	0	.228
Mustakas 1b	1	1	0	0	.250	Yoshida	1	0	1	0	.303
Totals	**37**	**4**	**6**	**2**		Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	

Colorado	000	100	010	2	_	4	6	0
Boston	000	001	100	1	_	3	9	2

Walks—Colorado 6: McMahon 2, Díaz 1, Grichuk 2, Jones 1. Boston 3: Verdugo 1, Turner 1, Duvall 1.

Strikeouts—Colorado 11: Tovar 1, Grichuk 2, Jones 2, Montes 4, Montero 1, Doyle 1. Boston 6: Turner 1, Devers 1, Duvall 2, Casas 1, Arroyo 1.

E—Hernández (14), Casas (3). **LOB**—Colorado 10, Boston 6. **2B**—Profar 2 (16), McMahon (19), Turner (13), Arroyo (8). **HR**—Arroyo (2), off Suter. **RBIs**—Díaz (30), Grichuk (12), Turner (28), Arroyo (12), Refsnyder (19). **DP**—Colorado 3; Boston 1.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Seabold	6	6	1	1	1	6	88	4.70
Suter	1⅔	1	1	1	0	0	29	2.06
Johnson	⅓	0	0	0	1	0	8	7.11
Bard, W, 2-0	1	1	0	0	1	0	15	0.92
Carasiti, S, 1-1	1	1	1	0	0	0	10	3.86
Boston	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Paxton	6	4	1	0	1	8	98	3.09
Winckowski	1⅔	2	1	1	2	1	33	2.33
Bernardino	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.79
Jansen	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.18
Pivetta, L, 3-4	⅔	0	2	0	3	0	18	5.40
Jacques	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.00
Garza	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	2	2.70

Inherited runners-scored—Winckowski 1-0, Bernardino 3-0, Jacques 3-1, Garza 3-0. **IBB**—off Pivetta (McMahon).

U— Chad Fairchild, Nic Lentz, Charlie Ramos, Jeremie Rehak. **T**—3:05. **Tickets sold**—32,227 (37,755).

TIGERS 6
BRAVES 5

Spencer Torkelson sparked a three-run, ninth-inning rally against Raisel Iglesias with a two-run homer and hit a game-ending single in the 10th, and Detroit ended a nine-game skid.

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	5	0	1	3	.328	McKinstry rf	3	0	0	0	.249
M.Olson 1b	4	0	2	0	.232	Schoop 3b	3	1	1	0	.194
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	.266	Trkelson 1b	6	1	3	3	.232
Murphy c	4	0	0	0	.281	Crpenter dh	5	0	1	0	.279
Ozuna dh	1	1	1	0	.246	Báez ss	5	1	2	0	.224
d'Arnud dh-c	3	0	0	0	.288	Mtn 3b-2b	5	1	0	0	.162
Rosario lf	5	0	0	0	.246	Vierling cf	4	0	2	0	.247
Albies 2b	2	1	0	1	.251	Short 2b-rf	5	0	2	2	.284
Arcia ss	4	1	1	0	.323	Ibáñez lf	4	2	3	1	.202
Harris II cf	4	2	3	1	.205	Rogers c	3	0	1	0	.171
Totals	**36**	**5**	**8**	**5**		Totals	**43**	**6**	**15**	**6**	

Atlanta	010	021	010	0	_	5	8	2
Detroit	000	000	113	1	_	6	15	1

Walks—Atlanta 4: M.Olson 1, Riley 1, Murphy 1, Albies 1. Detroit 3: Vierling 1, Ibáñez 1, Rogers 1.

Strikeouts—Atlanta 5: M.Olson 1, d'Arnaud 1, Rosario 1, Albies 1, Arcia 1. Detroit 13: McKinstry 2, Schoop 1, Torkelson 1, Carpenter 2, Báez 2, Maton 2, Vierling 1, Short 1, Ibáñez 1.

E—Rosario (2), Riley (8), Báez (9). **LOB**—Atlanta 8, Detroit 14. **2B**—Ozuna (7), Acuña Jr. (21), Vierling (7), Ibáñez (7), Báez (9). **HR**—Harris II (4), off Alexander; Ibáñez (3), off McHugh; Torkelson (6), off Iglesias. **RBIs**—Albies (43), Acuña Jr. 3 (40), Harris II (12), Ibáñez (9), Short 2 (14), Torkelson 3 (29). **SB**—Harris II (6), Albies (3). **CS**—Albies (0). **SF**—Albies. **S**—Rogers.

DP—Detroit 2.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Morton	5⅔	4	0	0	3	8	104	3.60
McHugh, H, 5	⅓	2	1	1	0	0	9	3.12
Minter, H, 3	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	5.93
Anderson	1	3	1	1	0	1	25	3.42
Iglesias, BS, 9-11	1	5	3	3	0	2	27	4.02
Jiménez, L, 0-2	⅓	1	1	0	0	0	7	3.74
Detroit	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Englert	2⅔	3	1	1	1	1	45	4.89
Hill	2⅔	3	3	2	3	2	52	8.49
Alexander	3⅔	2	1	1	0	2	51	5.23
Lange, W, 4-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.29

Inherited runners-scored—McHugh 2-0, Minter 1-0, Hill 2-0, Alexander 1-1. HBP_Hill (Ozuna).

U— Jordan Baker, Scott Barry, Mark Carlson, Brennan Miller. **T**—3:07. **Tickets sold**—18,742 (41,083).

GIANTS 4
CARDINALS 3

Mitch Haniger drove in two runs, and Brandon Crawford hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning. Wilmer Flores had three hits for San Francisco, which has won five of seven.

San Fran	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Slater cf	5	1	3	0	.400	Dnovan 2b	4	1	2	0	.258
Estrada 2b	4	1	0	0	.291	Gldchm 1b	5	1	1	2	.286
Flores 1b	4	1	2	0	.252	Gorman dh	4	0	1	0	.257
Davis dh	5	0	1	1	.284	Arenado 3b	4	0	2	0	.280
Haniger lf	5	0	2	2	.231	Contreras c	3	0	0	0	.201
Conforto rf	4	0	0	0	.237	Carlson rf	4	0	0	0	.241
Schmitt 3b	4	0	0	0	.277	J.Walker lf	4	0	2	0	.287
Bailey c	3	1	2	0	.317	DeJong ss	4	1	2	1	.231
Crawford ss	4	0	2	1	.202	Edman cf	3	0	0	0	.237
Totals	**38**	**4**	**12**	**4**		Totals	**35**	**3**	**10**	**3**	

San Francisco	002	000	110 – 4	12	1
St. Louis	000	012	000 – 3	10	0

Walks—San Francisco 3: Flores 1, Conforto 1, Bailey 1. St. Louis 2: Contreras 1, Edman 1.

Strikeouts—San Francisco 6: Slater 2, Estrada 1, Davis 1, Haniger 1, Conforto 1. St. Louis 6: Donovan 1, Goldschmidt 1, Gorman 3, Carlson 1.

E—Flores (2). **LOB**—San Francisco 11, St. Louis 8. **2B**—Haniger (9), Flores (8), Bailey (6). **HR**—DeJong (9), off Webb; Goldschmidt (11), off Webb. **RBIs**—Davis (35), Haniger 2 (22), Crawford (16), DeJong (20), Goldschmidt 2 (30). **SB**—Edman (10). **CS**—Slater (2), J.Walker (2).

Runners left in scoring position—San Francisco 6 (Flores 2, Haniger, Crawford, Conforto 2); St. Louis 3 (Carlson 2, Goldschmidt). RISP_San Francisco 3 for 12; St. Louis 0 for 3.

Runners moved up—Davis, Estrada. **GIDP**—Contreras, DeJong.

DP—San Francisco 2.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb, W, 5-6	7	7	3	3	0	6	88	3.15
Ty.Rogers, H, 13	⅔	2	0	0	0	0	19	1.71
Doval, S, 17-18	1⅓	1	0	0	2	0	27	1.86
St. Louis	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Liberatore	6	7	2	2	2	5	86	5.14
Pallante, BS, 0-3	1	2	1	1	1	1	23	4.38
Stratton, L, 1-1	1	3	1	1	0	0	22	3.93
Matz	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	5.27

Inherited runners-scored—Doval 2-0. HBP_Liberatore (Estrada), Doval (Donovan). **WP**—Liberatore.

U— Dan Iassogna, Tripp Gibson, Gabe Morales, Adam Beck. **T**—2:31. **Tickets sold**—40,886 (44,494).

ATHLETICS 4
RAYS 3

Shea Langeliers hit a three-run double in Oakland's four-run fifth inning, and the Athletics hung on to win their sixth in a row in opening a seven-game homestand. Tampa Bay has lost two of three after winning seven straight.

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Y.Díaz dh	3	0	0	0	.308	Ruiz cf	4	0	0	0	.259
Raley 1b	3	1	2	0	.265	Noda 1b	4	0	1	1	.249
Ramírez 1b	1	0	1	0	.309	Laureano rf	4	0	0	0	.222
Arozarena lf	3	0	1	0	.289	Brown lf	3	0	0	0	.191
Paredes 3b	2	0	0	0	.258	Rooker dh	2	0	0	0	.259
Franco ss	2	0	0	0	.296	Bride 3b	2	1	1	0	.300
Lowe rf	2	1	0	0	.295	Peterson 2b	3	1	2	0	.230
Margot rf	1	0	0	0	.245	Smith ss	3	1	1	0	.196
Siri cf	4	1	1	3	.224	Langeliers c	3	1	1	3	.217
Walls ss-3b	4	0	1	0	.212	Totals	**28**	**4**	**6**	**4**	
Bthancourt c	4	0	0	0	.224						
Bruján 2b	4	0	1	0	.182						
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**							

Tampa Bay	000	003	000 –3	7	0
Oakland	000	040	00x –4	6	0

Walks—Tampa Bay 3: Y.Díaz 1, Arozarena 1, Lowe 1. Oakland 2: Rooker 1, Bride 1.

Strikeouts—Tampa Bay 9: Y.Díaz 1, Arozarena 1, Lowe 1, Margot 1, Siri 3, Walls 1, Bethancourt 1. Oakland 8: Noda 1, Laureano 2, Brown 1, Rooker 2, Peterson 1, Langeliers 1.

LOB—Tampa Bay 6, Oakland 2. **2B**—Arozarena (8), Langeliers (9). **HR**—Siri (12), off Kaprielian. **RBIs**—Siri 3 (27), Langeliers 3 (29), Noda (25). **SB**—Raley (8), Lowe (15).

Runners left in scoring position—Tampa Bay 2 (Arozarena, Paredes); Oakland 0. RISP_Tampa Bay 1 for 5; Oakland 3 for 5.

Runners moved up—Franco, Ruiz. **GIDP**—Paredes, Smith, Ruiz.

DP—Tampa Bay 2 (Bruján, Walls, Raley; Franco, Bruján, Ramírez); Oakland 1 (Bride, Peterson, Noda).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eflin, L, 8-2	4⅔	5	4	4	2	6	94	3.28
Kelly	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.68
Armstrong	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	0.00
Stephenson	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.00
Oakland	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Kaprielian, W, 2-6	6	5	3	3	3	4	93	6.89
Waldichuk, S, 1-1	3	2	0	0	0	5	51	6.87

Inherited runners-scored—Kelly 1-0.

U— Manny Gonzalez, Quinn Wolcott, Alex MacKay, Adrian Johnson. **T**—2:31. **Tickets sold**—4,848 (46,847).

REDS 5
ROYALS 4

TJ Friedl scored the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning on Jonathan India's grounder, and Cincinnati sent Kansas City to its seventh consecutive loss. The Reds have won six of eight games.

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Friedl cf	5	2	2	1	.314	Pratto 1b	3	0	0	1	.282
McLain ss	5	0	1	0	.330	Perez c	5	1	2	1	.275
India 2b	5	0	2	2	.277	Melendez rf	5	1	1	0	.215
D L Cruz 3b	5	0	0	0	.296	Witt Jr. ss	2	1	0	0	.237
Steer 1b	3	0	0	0	.278	Massey 2b	5	0	2	2	.222
Stphnsn dh	4	0	2	0	.253	Olivares dh	5	0	1	0	.246
Benson rf	3	0	1	0	.234	Garcia 3b	4	0	0	0	.254
Fairchild lf	3	1	1	1	.230	Waters cf	3	1	1	0	.195
Maile c	2	1	1	0	.250	Blanco lf	4	0	1	0	.250
Totals	**35**	**5**	**10**	**5**		Totals	**36**	**4**	**8**	**4**	

Cincinnati	001	002	001	1	_	5	10	1
Kansas City	210	000	001	0	_	4	8	0

Walks—Cincinnati 3: Steer 1, Benson 1, Maile 1. Kansas City 6: Pratto 1, Witt Jr. 3, Garcia 1, Waters 1.

Strikeouts—Cincinnati 10: Friedl 1, McLain 1, India 2, De La Cruz 2, Steer 2, Stephenson 2. Kansas City 9: Perez 1, Melendez 1, Massey 2, Olivares 2, Garcia 1, Waters 1, Blanco 1.

E—Young (1). **LOB**—Cincinnati 6, Kansas City 10. **2B**—Maile (6), Friedl 2 (12), Benson (1), Massey 2 (6). **HR**—Fairchild (3), off Greinke; Perez (14), off Farmer. **RBIs**—Fairchild (20), Friedl (21), India 2 (34), Newman (21), Massey 2 (20), Pratto (18), Perez (37). **SB**—De La Cruz (4), Olivares (6), Witt Jr. (21), Eaton (3). **CS**—Blanco (1), Waters (1). **SF**—Newman, Pratto. **S**—Fairchild. **DP**—Kansas City 2

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Weaver	4⅔	5	3	3	4	3	93	6.23
Young	1⅓	1	0	0	0	2	19	2.70
Cruz	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	6.95
Legumina	⅓	1	0	0	1	1	12	4.22
Farmer, W, 2-3	1⅔	1	1	1	0	1	25	2.51
Karcher, S, 1-1	1	0	0	0	1	0	21	0.00
Kansas City	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Greinke	5	6	3	3	0	4	81	4.65
Cuas, BS, 0-1	1	1	0	0	1	1	15	4.50
Clarke	1	2	0	0	1	1	28	2.70
Chapman	1	0	0	0	0	3	14	2.70
Barlow	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	4.38
Hernández, L, 0-4	1	0	1	0	0	0	22	4.86

Inherited runners-scored—Young 2-0, Farmer 2-0, Cuas 1-1. **WP**—Cuas.

U— CB Bucknor, Ben May, Jeff Nelson, Tom Hanahan. **T**—3:27. **Tickets sold**—20,500 (38,427).

DIAMONDBACKS 9
PHILLIES 8

Evan Longoria hit a three-run homer, and Arizona withstood Philadelphia's J.T. Realmuto hitting for the cycle. Two of MLB's highest-scoring teams combined for 25 hits, 10 for extra bases.

Philadelph.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Schwrber lf	4	1	1	0	.172	K.Marte 2b	5	3	3	0	.280
Turner ss	4	1	0	0	.245	Rivera 3b	4	2	2	2	.361
Cstllanos rf	4	1	2	0	.315	Carroll lf	3	2	2	1	.313
Harper dh	5	1	1	1	.295	C.Wlker 1b	4	0	0	0	.248
Realmuto c	4	3	4	3	.256	Longoria dh	3	1	1	4	.226
Bohm 1b	5	1	2	2	.263	Smith rf	3	0	1	2	.212
Hrsn 2b-3b	4	0	2	1	.211	C.Kelly c	3	0	0	0	.000
Sosa 3b	3	0	0	0	.250	Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	.284
Stott 2b	2	0	1	1	.294	McCarthy cf	4	1	3	0	.211
Guthrie cf	3	0	0	0	.130	Totals	**33**	**9**	**12**	**9**	
Clemens	1	0	0	0	.267						
Totals	**39**	**8**	**13**	**8**							

Philadelphia	014	000	201 –8	13	0
Arizona	102	204	00x –9	12	0

Walks—Philadelphia 5: Schwarber 1, Turner 1, Castellanos 1, Realmuto 1, Harrison 1. Arizona 3: C.Walker 1, Smith 1, C.Kelly 1.

Strikeouts—Philadelphia 9: Schwarber 1, Turner 1, Castellanos 1, Harper 3, Sosa 2, Clemens 1. Arizona 7: Rivera 2, Carroll 1, C.Walker 1, Longoria 1, C.Kelly 1, Perdomo 1.

LOB—Philadelphia 10, Arizona 7. **2B**—Harrison (2), Bohm (10), Harper (10), Realmuto (17), K.Marte (12). **3B**—Realmuto (4), McCarthy (2), Carroll (3). **HR**—Realmuto (6), off Henry; Longoria (9), off Vasquez. **RBIs**—Realmuto 3 (24), Bohm 2 (39), Harrison (8), Harper (13), Stott (24), Longoria 4 (19), Smith 2 (29), Rivera 2 (17), Carroll (34). **SF**—Longoria, Rivera. **DP**—Philadelphia 1.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Strahm	2⅔	4	3	3	1	1	50	4.00
Y.Marte	1⅓	3	2	2	0	2	25	7.71
Covey, L, 1-2	1⅓	2	2	2	1	2	35	9.00
Vasquez	1⅔	3	2	2	1	0	34	1.78
Hoffman	1	0	0	0	0	2	14	2.77
Arizona	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Henry	4⅔	9	5	5	1	6	85	4.86
Jameson, W, 3-1	2	1	2	2	2	1	33	4.13
Adams, H, 6	⅓	1	0	0	1	0	16	1.42
Chafin, H, 9	1	0	0	0	1	1	17	3.04
Castro, S, 7-9	1	2	1	1	0	1	24	3.95

Inherited runners-scored—Y.Marte 1-0, Vasquez 1-1, Jameson 1-0, Adams 2-1, Chafin 1-0. HBP_Strahm 2 (Carroll,Carroll), Adams (Guthrie). **U**— Vic Carapazza, Jerry Layne, Adam Hamari, Nick Mahrley. **T**—3:11. **Tickets sold**—18,432 (48,359).

THE DAY IN SPORTS

PGA Tour, LIV under scrutiny

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The leader of a Senate subcommittee is demanding the PGA Tour and Saudi Arabia's LIV Golf present records about negotiations that led to their new agreement and plans for what golf will look like under the arrangement.

Sen. **Richard Blumenthal** (D-Conn.) sent letters to PGA Tour Commissioner **Jay Monahan** and LIV chief executive **Greg Norman** spelling out the "serious questions regarding the reasons for and terms behind the announced agreement."

Blumenthal, who is chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, said he also wanted to hear the tour's plans to retain its tax-exempt status.

Last week the PGA Tour stunned the golf world by agreeing to merge with the Saudi golf interests, while also dropping all lawsuits between the parties.

Additionally, a new lawsuit was filed against LIV Golf and **Phil Mickelson** over a logo.

Cool Brands Supply, an Argentine lifestyle and skateboard company, filed a trademark infringement lawsuit that claims Mickelson's "HyFlyers" logo used in LIV Golf is a knockoff of their Fallen Footwear logo.

Both logos feature a pair of F's facing in opposite directions.

Mickelson is the team captain of HyFlyers, which includes **Brendan Steele, Cameron Tringale** and **James Piot**.

ETC.

Huska named Calgary coach

Calgary promoted **Ryan Huska** to coach after five years as a Flames assistant. The 47-year-old replaces **Darryl Sutter**, who was fired in May. Calgary has changed coaches five times in eight years. The hiring of Huska is new general manager **Craig Conroy's** first major move.

The NCAA is changing its penalty for delay-of-game violations and adding a new rule on flopping in women's basketball. Players no longer will get charged a technical foul for certain delay-of-game violations. Players who flop will be issued a warning on the first offense and a technical foul will be charged for each subsequent infraction.

Vice President **Kamala Harris** saluted more than a thousand U.S. college athletes from championship teams who gathered at the White House South Lawn, saying that sports have a "very special way of bringing people together."

Just days after leading Oklahoma's softball team to its third straight national championship, pitcher **Jordy Bahl** posted on social media that she is transferring and heading back to her home state of Nebraska.

Danielle Hunter is expected to skip the Minnesota Vikings' mandatory minicamp this week, a move that continues the uncertainty surrounding his future. ... Cleveland Browns defensive tackle **Perrion Winfrey** had a misdemeanor assault charge against him dropped in Texas after he completed a pretrial diversion program.

The Rams, attempting to boost their receiver corps, agreed to terms with veteran **Demarcus Robinson**, the team announced.

Robinson, 28, played last season for the Baltimore Ravens. He caught 48 passes, two for touchdowns. He has 193 catches, 16 for touchdowns, in his career.

Robinson played at Florida and was a fourth-round pick by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 2016 draft.

—Gary Klein

Rob Vaughn, who revitalized Maryland's baseball program and turned the Terrapins into one of the Big Ten Conference's best, has left after six seasons to fill the coaching vacancy at Alabama. **Matt Swope**, who was Vaughn's associate head coach for the last two seasons, was named the new coach.

Silvio Berlusconi, a former Italian premier and owner of AC Milan, died at age 86. Under his ownership, the team won 29 trophies, including eight Serie A titles and five European Cups. ... **Stan Savran,** who spent nearly five decades in sports broadcasting chronicling Pittsburgh's rise to the "City of Champions" has died. He was 76. ... World champion sprinter and three-time Olympic medalist **Tori Bowie** died from complications of childbirth, according to an autopsy report obtained by USA Today. She was 32.

Drew Bowser hit a routine fly that Texas outfielders lost in the sky, allowing **Alberto Rios** to score the game-winning run as Stanford beat the Longhorns 7-6 to advance to its third straight College World Series. **Drew Beam** struck out seven in six innings, **Zane Denton** hit a three-run blast and Tennessee beat Southern Miss 5-0 to clinch the final spot in the CWS.

TENNIS RESULTS

$984,391-LIBEMA OPEN
At Den Bosch, Netherlands
Surface: Grass

MEN'S SINGLES (round of 32) — Marc-Andrea Huesler, Switzerland, def. Maxime Cressy (8), U.S., 6-2, 7-6 (2). Ugo Humbert (7), France, def. Jason Kubler, Australia, 6-4, 6-2. Milos Raonic, Canada, def. Miomir Kecmanovic (5), Serbia, 6-3, 6-4. Rinky Hijikata, Australia, def. Gijs Brouwer, Netherlands, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (round of 32) — Veronika Kudermetova (1), Russia, def. Alison Riske-Amritraj, U.S., 6-3, 3-0, ret. Greet Minnen, Belgium, def. Jessika Ponchet, France, 7-5, 4-6, 6-2. Victoria Azarenka (3), Belarus, def. Natalija Stevanovic, Serbia, 7-6 (5), 6-3. Carol Zhao, Canada, def. Ysaline Bonaventure, Belgium, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4). Liudmila Samsonova (2), Russia, def. Lena Papadakis, Germany, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3). Emina Bektas, U.S., def. Dalma Galfi, Hungary, 7-5, 7-6 (1).

MEN'S DOUBLES (round of 16) — Robin Haase and Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Mackenzie McDonald, U.S., and Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 11-9. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, and Brandon Nakashima, U.S., def. Hugo Nys, Monaco, and Jan Zielinski (3), Poland, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 10-8.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (round of 16) — Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia, and Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Lesley Pattinama Kerkhove and Bibiane Schoofs, Netherlands, 6-2, 6-4. Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Elise Mertens, Belgium, def. Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, and Ashlyn Krueger, U.S., 6-2, 6-2.

$259,303-ROTHESAY OPEN
At Nottingham, Great Britain
Surface: Grass

WOMEN'S SINGLES (round of 32) — Tatjana Maria, Germany, def. Zhang Shuai (6), China, 6-1, 6-4. Donna Vekic (4), Croatia, def. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1. Magdalena Frech, Poland, def. Sonay Kartal, Britain, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2. Maria Sakkari (1), Greece, def. Wang Xiyu, China, 6-2, 7-6 (6). Zhu Lin (8), China, def. Alycia Parks, U.S., 7-6 (5), 6-2. Heather Watson, Britain, def. Jule Niemeier, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.

PRO CALENDAR

	TUE 13	WED 14	THU 15	FRI 16	SAT 17
DODGERS	**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** 7 SNLA	**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** 7 ESPN	**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** 7 SNLA	**SAN FRANCISCO** 7 SNLA	**SAN FRANCISCO** 6 SNLA
ANGELS	**at Texas** 5 BSW	**at Texas** 5 BSW	**at Texas** 5 BSW, FS1	**at Kansas City** 5 BSW	**at Kansas City** 1 BSW
GALAXY	**JUNE 21 VS. KANSAS CITY, 7:30, APPLE TV**				
LAFC		**HOUSTON** 7:30 Apple TV			**at Kansas City** 5:30 Apple TV
ANGEL CITY					**at San Diego** 1 Ch. 2
SPARKS		**at Dallas** 10 a.m. NBA		**MINNESOTA** 7 Ion	

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
4 p.m.	New York Yankees at New York Mets	**TV:** TBS
5 p.m.	Angels at Texas	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830
6:30 p.m.	Cleveland at San Diego	**TV:** MLB
7 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Dodgers	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
BASKETBALL		
5 p.m.	WNBA, Atlanta at New York	**TV:** CBSSN
7 p.m.	WNBA, Seattle at Phoenix	**TV:** CBSSN
HOCKEY: STANLEY CUP FINAL		
5 p.m.	Florida at Vegas, Game 5	**TV:** TNT
TENNIS		
10 a.m.	ATP Stuttgart; WTA Nottingham tournaments, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis
2 a.m. (Wed.)	ATP Stuttgart; WTA Nottingham tournaments, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis

Dodgers hope for internal upgrades

[**Dodgers,** from B10]

The next game, it was Phillips who faltered late, responsible for another walk-off defeat to the Reds by giving up a ninth-inning home run.

The Dodgers suffered three walk-off losses on the six-game trip, an additional defeat in which they gave up seven runs in a bullpen game Sunday, and returned home with an earned-run average of 4.76 from their relievers on the season, fourth worst in the majors.

The bullpen's struggles have helped raise the team ERA to 4.49. Both marks would be the worst for a full season since the Dodgers moved to L.A.

In the wake of those struggles, speculation arose in recent days.

About whether the team needs to reevaluate its closer situation. And whether choosing a consistent option in the ninth inning, and lining up a more regimented plan preceding it, would help the overall performance of the unit.

Posed those questions over the weekend, Dodgers decision-makers downplayed such concerns.

"We feel like we have the talent down there to navigate close games and win them," president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said. "If you have a designated closer, that's helpful in a lot of ways. But I also think it can be harmful if you force that."

Friedman sees the Dodgers in the latter category.

"I'm not sure our personnel sets up perfectly, right this second, for a designated closer," he said.

Roberts made a similar point, noting that though Phillips (who has a team-high seven saves with a 2.66 ERA) would be a logical closer candidate, keeping the right-hander available for other situations has critical benefits.

"I just think right now, where we're at," Roberts said, "it's got to be fluid."

Instead, the Dodgers' main focus is finding more high-leverage alternatives for their late-game puzzle.

They hoped Brusdar Graterol (who has a 1.95 ERA but has made several costly defensive mistakes) and Ferguson (whose ERA has risen to 3.91 amid a recent slump) could fill those voids.

Ashley Landis Associated Press

EVAN PHILLIPS is a logical candidate to be a full-time closer for the Dodgers, but manager Dave Roberts likes having him available for other critical situations.

Not really pitching in

The Dodgers have managed to put together a 37-29 record despite having the 22nd-best ERA of all 30 teams.

Dodgers' highest team ERA since moving to Los Angeles:

Year	ERA	W-L
2023	4.49	TBD
1958	4.47	71-83
1999	4.45	77-85
2005	4.38	71-91
2001	4.25	86-76
2006	4.23	88-74
2007	4.20	82-80
1994	4.17	58-56
2000	4.10	86-76
1961	4.04	89-65

Dodgers' highest bullpen ERA since moving to Los Angeles:

Year	ERA
2023	4.76
1958	4.74
2001	4.70
1994	4.69
2005	4.42
1999	4.37
1995	4.22
1979	4.17
1961	4.15
2006	4.12

But as they try to end a 10-14 skid that has dropped them to second place in the National League West, the Dodgers have started seeking other options.

And, when looking internally, both Roberts and Friedman believe there are potential breakout candidates.

Yency Almonte and Alex Vesia, both high-leverage relievers last season, have shown improvement after woeful opening months. Shelby Miller and Victor González have been rewarded with increased roles for steady performances.

Veteran right-hander Daniel Hudson offers another hope.

After a series of delays and setbacks in his recovery from a torn anterior cruciate ligament suffered last June, the 36-year-old finally has begun a rehabilitation assignment in the Arizona Complex League and could return to the majors in a matter of weeks, according to Roberts.

"Obviously, we're not gonna put him in harm's way," Roberts said of Hudson, who was a key cog in last year's bullpen before getting hurt. "But everything I've heard from the training staff, I know Huddy is anxious to get back."

Beyond that, the Dodgers' answers run thin.

Offseason signing Alex Reyes is set to miss the whole season because of a shoulder surgery. Other injured relievers such as Jimmy Nelson, Blake Treinen and J.P. Feyereisen are uncertain to make contributions this year.

Because of that, the bullpen likely is moving up on the Dodgers' trade deadline shopping list.

Last season they acquired an uncovered gem in Chris Martin on the cheap, and in previous seasons they also used the trade market to bolster reliever depth.

Making a bigger splash this summer could be wise, especially if the club wishes to keep Phillips in his versatile fireman role — entering games in either the biggest situation or against an opponent's best hitters, regardless of the inning.

"I don't think it's smart to put ourselves, myself or Evan in a situation where it's all or nothing," Roberts said of preserving Phillips' current role instead of using him strictly in the ninth inning.

Regardless of potential additions over the next couple of months, Roberts put the onus on the team's relievers to simply pitch better.

"You have to peel back individual performance," he said. "And I think that individually, guys are not pitching to their capabilities."

For Graterol, it means continuing his ever-confounding efforts to induce more strikeouts, especially with his whiff rate at its lowest point in three seasons.

For Ferguson, it's about keeping his poise in high-pressure situations and avoiding the kind of ninth-inning meltdown that set a tone for the rest of the trip.

Vesia had to readjust his routine on the mound after the introduction of the pitch clock this season, noting he used to take time to close his eyes and visualize his plan of attack during at-bats.

Both he and Almonte have tried to be more consistent with their sliders as well, tinkering with their mechanics in hopes of landing the pitch for more strikes.

"We can go through each guy, and we feel like there are really compelling upside stories," Friedman said. "Successful paths that we can help set these guys on."

The Dodgers' top executive then offered a qualifier — underlining the urgency with which the team is approaching its recent inconsistencies in the bullpen.

"Obviously, if that doesn't happen, then we're gonna have to figure out either internally or externally how to improve," Friedman said. "But we feel like we have the talent internally to get there and then couple that with some reinforcements."

Nuggets capture first NBA title

[**Nuggets,** from B10]

Brown got an offensive rebound and tip-in to give the Nuggets the lead for good.

Trailing by three with 15 seconds left, Butler jacked up a three but missed it. Brown and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made two free throws each to put the game out of reach and clinch the title for Denver.

Butler finished with 21 points.

Ugly as it was, the aftermath was something the Nuggets and their fans all could agree was beautiful. There were fireworks exploding outside Ball Arena at the final buzzer. Denver is the home of the Larry O'Brien Trophy for the first time in the franchise's 47 years in the NBA.

"It was ugly and we couldn't make shots, but at the end we figured it out," Jokic said. "I am just happy we won the game."

The Heat were, as coach Erik Spoelstra promised, a gritty, tenacious bunch. But their shooting wasn't great, either. Bam Adebayo had 20 points for the Heat, but Miami shot 34% from the floor and 25% from three. Until Butler went off, he was two for 13 for eight points.

The Heat, who survived a loss in the play-in tournament and became only the second No. 8 seed to make it to the Finals, insisted they weren't into consolation prizes.

They played like they expected to win, and for a while during this game, which was settled more on the ground than in the air, it looked like they would.

The Nuggets, who came in shooting 37.6% from three for the series, shot 18% . They committed 14 turnovers. Even with the clutch shots from Brown and Caldwell-Pope, they went only 13 for 23 from the line.

The tone of the game was set with 2:51 left in the first quarter, when Jokic got his second foul and joined Aaron Gordon on the bench. Jeff Green and Jamal Murray, who finished with 14 points and eight assists on an off night, joined them there too.

It made the Nuggets tentative on both sides of the court for the rest of the half. Somehow, after shooting 6.7% from beyond the arc — the worst first half in the history of the Finals (10-shot minimum), they trailed by only seven.

True to the Nuggets' personality, they kept pressing, came at their opponent in waves and figured out how to win a game that went against their type. Their beautiful game turned into a slugfest, but they figured out how to win anyway.

"That's why basketball is a fun sport," Jokic said. "It's a live thing. You cannot say, 'This is going to happen.' There are so many factors."

It felt almost perfect that an unheralded and once-chubby second-round draft pick from Serbia would be the one to lift Denver to the top of a league that, for decades, has been dominated by superstars, first-round draft picks and players who lead the world in sneaker and jersey sales.

Over their near five-decade stay in the league, the Nuggets have been the epitome of a lovable NBA backbencher — at times entertaining, adorned by rainbows on their uniforms and headlined by colorful characters on the floor and bench. But never quite good enough to break through against the biggest stars and better teams to the east, west and south of them. Until now. For the first time, nobody in the NBA shines brighter than the Nuggets.

Pells writes for the Associated Press.

NBA FINALS

Denver vs. Miami

Nuggets win series 4-1

Gm 1	Denver 104, Miami 93
Gm 2	Miami 111, Denver 108
Gm 3	Denver 109, Miami 94
Gm 4	Denver 108, Miami 95
Gm 5	Denver 94, Miami 89

Denver 94, Miami 89

MIAMI

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Butler	41	5-18	9-11	1-3	5	2	21
Love	14	1-4	0-0	0-2	0	1	3
Adebayo	44	9-20	2-2	5-12	1	2	20
Strus	31	5-12	1-1	1-8	1	3	12
Vincent	21	3-13	0-0	0-0	3	2	6
Lowry	34	4-13	0-0	2-9	4	5	12
Martin	32	4-9	2-2	1-5	1	4	10
Robinson	16	2-6	0-0	0-3	3	1	5
Highsmith	2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	1	0
Zeller	1	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	0
Totals		**33-96**	**14-16**	**11-44**	**18**	**21**	**89**

Shooting: Field goals, 34.4%; free throws, 87.5%
Three-point goals: 9-35 (Lowry 4-9, Butler 2-5, Robinson 1-3, Love 1-4, Strus 1-6, Martin 0-4, Vincent 0-4). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Love 2, Robinson 2, Lowry, Martin, Strus). Turnovers: 8 (Martin 2, Robinson 2, Adebayo, Butler, Lowry, Strus). Steals: 9 (Butler 3, Lowry 2, Adebayo, Love, Martin, Vincent). Technical Fouls: None.

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	28	1-6	2-4	2-7	1	4	4
Porter Jr.	33	7-17	1-2	2-13	3	0	16
Jokic	42	12-16	3-5	1-16	4	3	28
Caldwell-Pope	34	4-10	2-2	1-4	2	1	11
Murray	41	6-15	0-0	0-8	8	2	14
Brown	28	4-14	2-4	4-6	1	1	10
Braun	24	2-4	3-6	1-3	1	0	7
Green	4	2-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	4
Jordan	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**38-84**	**13-23**	**11-57**	**21**	**13**	**94**

Shooting: Field goals, 45.2%; free throws, 56.5%
Three-point goals: 5-28 (Murray 2-7, Jokic 1-3, Caldwell-Pope 1-5, Porter Jr. 1-6, Gordon 0-2, Brown 0-5). Team Rebounds: 14. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 7 (Caldwell-Pope 3, Braun, Gordon, Jokic, Jordan). Turnovers: 14 (Murray 6, Jokic 4, Brown, Caldwell-Pope, Gordon, Porter Jr.). Steals: 6 (Caldwell-Pope 2, Gordon 2, Brown, Murray). Technical Fouls: None.

Miami	24	27	20	18—	89
Denver	22	22	26	24—	94

A—19,537. T—2:22.

Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Former Kings, Ducks fill Final

HELENE ELLIOTT

LAS VEGAS — Golden Knights goaltender Jonathan Quick has experienced the delicious, fluttery anticipation of Stanley Cup Eve twice before.

As the most valuable player in the Kings' 2012 sprint through the playoffs and again in a gritty 2014 run, he had to live shot by shot, not daring to look ahead while friends, family and fans were planning celebrations.

Quick is playing a different role in a different uniform these days, and the Kings moved on to a different era when they traded him in March. But Quick, who has been the backup to Adin Hill throughout the Cup Final, sees some of the same key traits in his new team that he saw with the triumphant Kings: a strength not only of muscle but also character.

That's a big reason the Golden Knights will have their names etched on the Cup for the first time in the franchise's six-season history if they defeat the Florida Panthers on Tuesday before what's sure to be a rollicking, rocking, Elvis-studded crowd at T-Mobile

[See **Elliott,** B7]

STANLEY CUP FINAL

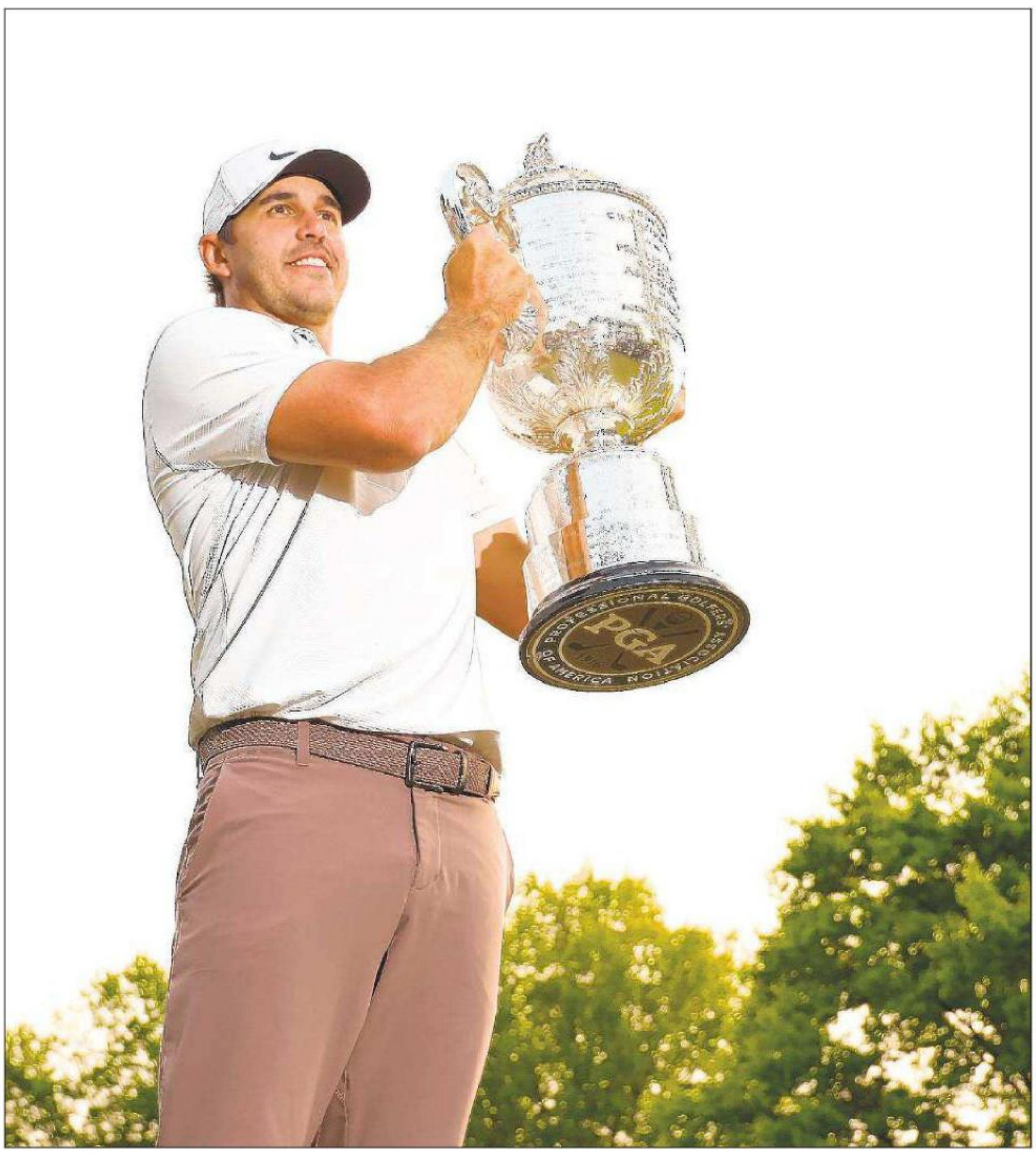
Florida vs. Vegas

Vegas leads series 3-1

Game 5: Tonight at Vegas
TV: TNT, 5 p.m.

U.S. OPEN

AT L.A. COUNTRY CLUB | THURSDAY-SUNDAY | **TV:** CHANNEL 4, USA



MICHAEL REAVES Getty Images

BROOKS KOEPKA has worked hard to get back on track after his knee injury. "To look back to where we were two years ago, I'm so happy right now," he said after winning the PGA Championship.

CAREER BACK TO SUNSHINE, POSES

Koepka a force again thanks in part to noted L.A. surgeon

BY SAM FARMER

He's not the world's No. 1-ranked golfer. Not in the top five, or even in the top 10.

Those guys would have to study their rearview mirrors to even find Brooks Koepka, lagging way back at 13th.

But beware. Objects in mirror are much larger than they appear.

No one would be surprised if Koepka wound up winning the U.S. Open this week at Los Angeles Country Club. He doesn't collect world ranking points for LIV Golf events.

Koepka is coming off a victory at the PGA Championship last month, his fifth major title, and has returned to his form of a few years ago, when he spent 47 weeks as the top golfer in the world.

That was before a serious right knee injury set back the career of the two-time U.S. Open champion and played a role in him leaving the PGA Tour for the upstart rival league.

"To look back to where we were two years ago, I'm so happy right now," Koepka said after winning the PGA at Oak Hill Country Club. "This is just the coolest thing."

On Sunday night, Koepka had dinner at the home of Dr. Neal ElAttrache, the world-renowned orthopedic surgeon who two years ago rebuilt his right knee. The procedure occurred after Koepka suffered an undisclosed accident during a fall at his Florida home. He recovered so quickly that it surprised even the doctor, and he played in the Masters three weeks after surgery.

ElAttrache repaired the ligament to restore stability to Koepka's fractured and dislocated kneecap, adding internal bracing and protection to allow accelerated rehabilitation and the chance to return to competition months ahead of a typical schedule.

[See **U.S. Open,** B6]

This 'pen is not on point

Dodgers are seeking relief improvement but not necessarily a designated closer.

BY JACK HARRIS

Dave Roberts sat in the dugout, scanned the Cincinnati Reds' lineup and tried to devise a late-game plan.

At the start of their recent six-game trip, the Dodgers had a three-run lead with nine outs to get at Great American Ball Park. Roberts knew the three relievers he wanted to use. But he and his staff still needed to choose how to best line them up.

In past seasons, such decisions were more straightforward: The Dodgers had a set closer (Craig Kimbrel last year, Kenley Jansen before him), a cast of reliable setup men (the role Evan Phillips served last season), and other right- and left-handed options to be deployed in specific, favorable matchups.

This year, however, the team is operating differently. The Dodgers have no designated closer. No set alignment leading up to the ninth inning.

Instead, they have tried rearranging their high-leverage pieces on a near-nightly basis.

And after some early struggles, then a short-lived turnaround, the bullpen is in danger of devolving into a mess again.

In that Cincinnati game, the Dodgers burned Phillips against the Reds' top hitters in the eighth — only to watch Caleb Ferguson come unglued in the ninth, giving up three runs with wild command in a walk-off loss.

[See **Dodgers,** B9]

ANGELS 9, TEXAS 6
(12 INNINGS)

Ohtani's homers rally the Angels

Slugger's shot in the seventh ties it and blast in 12th provides lead. **B8**

Legacy is on line for Man City manager

Guardiola should save reputation and move on as fair-play probe threatens the club.

KEVIN BAXTER
ON SOCCER

With Saturday's 1-0 win over Inter Milan in the UEFA Champions League final, Manchester City's pursuit of the one prize it was missing is at long last over. And it had been an epic quest, not unlike King Arthur's hunt for the Holy Grail or Captain Ahab's pursuit of that white whale.

That last one didn't work out so well for the dear captain, by the way, so this may be a good idea to pause and consider the immediate future of City's captain, manager Pep Guardiola, now that his team's lengthy drama has ended.

The coach, who recently signed a two-year contract extension, said recently he had no intention of leaving Manchester City before 2025 and no intention of staying beyond then. But after Saturday's win, what's the point of waiting?

City had a historic season, becoming just the second English club to win a treble, capturing league, domestic cup and Champions League titles in the same season.

[See **Baxter,** B7]

NBA FINALS :: DENVER 94, MIAMI 89

NUGGETS WIN SERIES, 4-1 | **SERIES MVP:** NIKOLA JOKIC (AVERAGED 30.2 POINTS, 14 REBOUNDS, 7.2 ASSISTS)

JUSTIN EDMONDS Getty Images

NIKOLA JOKIC wins the NBA Finals most valuable player award after leading Denver with 28 points and 16 rebounds in the Nuggets' deciding Game 5 win.

Ugly game is thing of beauty for the Nuggets

Jokic leads Denver in capturing first title in team's 47-year history, outlasting Miami.

BY EDDIE PELLS

DENVER — Confetti flying in Denver. The Nuggets passing around the NBA championship trophy.

Those scenes that, for decades, seemed impossible, then more recently started feeling inevitable, finally turned into reality Monday night.

The Nuggets outlasted the Miami Heat 94-89 in an ugly, frantic Game 5 that did nothing to derail Nikola Jokic, who bailed out his teammates with 28 points and 16 rebounds on a night when nothing else seemed to work.

Jokic won the Bill Russell trophy as the NBA Finals most valuable player — an award that has more meaning to him than the two NBA MVPs he won in 2021 and '22.

"We are not in it for ourselves, we are in it for the guy next to us," Jokic said. "And that's why this [means] even more."

Denver's clincher was a gruesome grind.

Unable to shake the tenacious Heat or the closing-night jitters, the Nuggets missed 20 of their first 22 three-pointers. They missed seven of their first 13 free throws. They led by seven late, before Miami's Jimmy Butler went off, scoring eight straight points to give the Heat a one-point lead with 2:45 left.

Butler made two more free throws with 1:58 remaining to help Miami regain a one-point lead. Then, Bruce

[See **Nuggets,** B9]

Los Angeles Times
E
CALENDAR
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times

Tonys find meaning off script

Solidarity with striking Writers Guild members inspired a moving ceremony.

CHARLES McNULTY
THEATER CRITIC

The ceremony for the Tony Awards was unscripted this year because of the Writers Guild of America strike, but playwrights, librettists and lyricists were omnipresent throughout an evening that recognized the centrality of the written word.

Speaker after speaker at the United Palace in Manhattan's Washington Heights neighborhood, where the event was held on Sunday, paid tribute to those who spend their time arranging words on the page.

"Writers are not just the cornerstone of theatrical production — the sharp end of the inverted pyramid," as Tom Stoppard more eloquently put it when he accepted the best play award for "Leopoldstadt." They are the articulators of our values and the search lights of our consciousness.

The WGA had asked its members not to attend, but it was moving to see so many artists advance the cause of the union by refusing to be invisible and by speaking truth to power.

Capitalism undervalues the soul, which is the locus of writers' activity. Ironically, the script-free ceremony was one of the most soulful Tony Awards in history, because there were no intermediaries brought in by the network to check off boxes that executives deemed necessary.

Theater people were al-

[See **Tonys,** E6]

Fox: No Tucker on Twitter

Citing contract issues, Carlson's former network demands he stop posting videos on the platform. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

IN HER HAPPY PLACE

Jenny Lewis finds 'Joy' making music in Nashville

BY MIKAEL WOOD POP MUSIC CRITIC

It turns out that Jenny Lewis — former child actor, widely respected songwriter, avatar of sophisticated L.A. cool — is a mall walker.

"I go down there and I get my steps in," she says, shrugging matter-of-factly. "I'm also a massage-at-the-mall person."

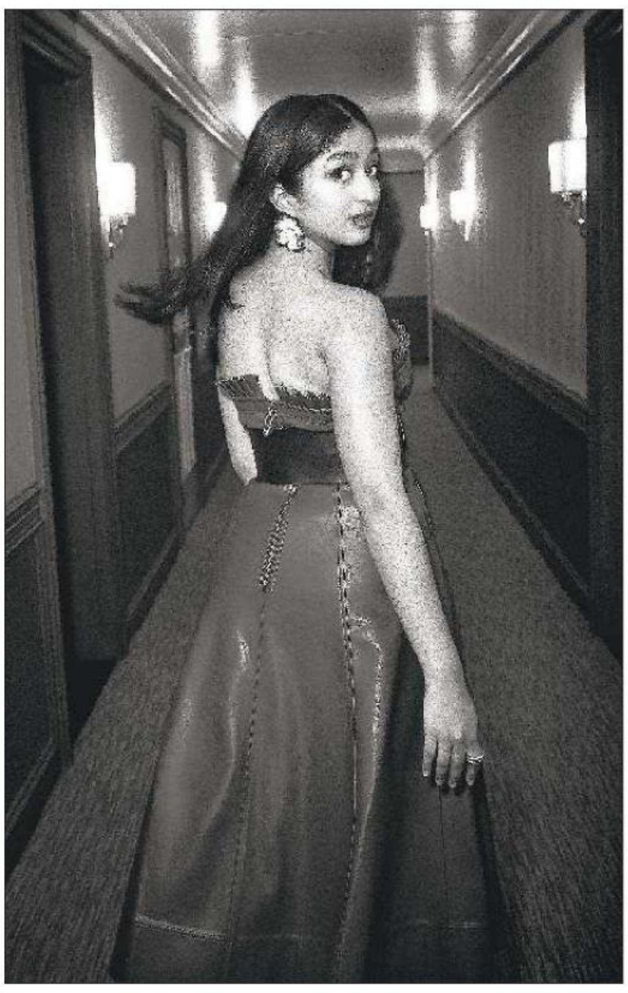
Lewis, whose talent and effortless charm have made her an object of fascination since her days fronting the beloved early-2000s indie-rock band Rilo Kiley, pursues these activities at the Opry Mills shopping center in Nashville, where the lifelong Angeleno bought a second home in 2017. Opry Mills also boasts a "mediocre Mexican chain restaurant," per Lewis' description, called Chuy's, which she's heard inspired the song "Margaritas at the Mall" by the Silver Jews' David Berman, a poet and songwriting hero of Lewis' who died in 2019.

So in addition to the mall walking and the massages, she'll sometimes throw her black cockapoo in her Chevy Colorado — the stars of her own song "Puppy and a Truck" — and hit Chuy's for an afternoon drink on the patio.

"You know," she says, "in honor of Berman."

Finding happiness where perhaps you least expect it — that's one of the secrets of life that Lewis, 47, explores on her enchanting new album, "Joy'All," which puts her sweet, sly voice over funky and laid-back country-rock arrangements that split the difference between the musical traditions of her two hometowns. Recorded in Nashville with producer Dave Cobb (known for his work with Chris

[See **Lewis,** E2]



EVAN MULLING For The Times

MAITREYI RAMAKRISHNAN, who jokes that she's "a nepo baby of Mindy Kaling," is now in college.

Still chasing her dreams

Rising star Maitreyi Ramakrishnan on the end of 'Never Have I Ever' and her future.

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL

This interview contains spoilers for Season 4 of Netflix's "Never Have I Ever."

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan was 17 when she and her best friend saw a tweet from Mindy Kaling announcing a casting call for her new Netflix series. The pair headed to the library's community center in their hometown of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, to put themselves on tape.

Kaling and co-creator Lang Fisher were going into production on their series "Never Have I Ever," a coming-of-age teen comedy that revolves around Devi Vishwakumar, a first-generation Indian American teenager. The character is coping with her father's sudden death and struggling with her identity, all while she's on a mission to become a popular kid at her high school, lose her virginity and get into Princeton University. The show is loosely based on Kaling's own upbringing as an Indian American teen with immigrant parents. Ramakrishnan, dark-haired, prone to saying "nifty" and exuding a laid-back vibe, looked and felt connected to the part. She beat out 15,000 hopefuls and, two weeks after graduating high school, was bound for L.A.

"It's really hard to get me to be nervous," she recalled recently of her first day ever on a set. "I just remember Lang's first note to me was, 'OK, so that was great, but just let me just slow it down by like, 70%.' I was talking so fast because I was so excited.

[See **'Never,'** E3]

Major Golden Globes revamp

After years of turmoil, group behind awards show will become a for-profit company.

BY JOSH ROTTENBERG

Capping more than two years of turmoil and transformation, the Golden Globe Awards are officially under new management. And the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn., at least on paper, is no more.

The California attorney general has signed off on billionaire businessman and investor Todd Boehly's plan to dissolve the embattled HFPA — the tiny, improbably powerful group of international entertainment journalists that has handed out the Globes for 80 years — and convert the nonprofit's 95 members into employees of a for-profit enterprise.

Under the deal announced Monday, the financial terms of which were not disclosed, the assets of the Golden Globes have been acquired by Boehly's private equity firm, Eldridge Industries, along with Dick Clark Productions, which has long produced the awards and which is owned by Penske Media in partnership with Eldridge. Dick Clark Productions and its partners will oversee the awards telecast and look for other ways to extend the Globes around the world.

The proceeds from the deal, along with the HFPA's existing resources, will transition into a newly formed nonprofit Golden Globe Foundation, which will oversee the group's philanthropic and charitable giving.

"We are excited to close on this much anticipated

[See **Golden Globes,** E2]

PATRICK T. FALLON AFP/Getty Images

TODD Boehly's firm now is running the HFPA.

Golden Globes revamp

[**Golden Globes,** from E1] member-approved transaction and transition from a member-led organization to a commercial enterprise," Helen Hoehne, formerly the HFPA's president, said in a statement Monday.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the evolution of the Golden Globes," said Boehly, who serves as chairman of Eldridge.

"My partners at DCP and I are grateful to Helen and team for their commitment to the successful implementation of a robust approach to governance, the expansion of the diverse and international voting body, implementing a professional, safe and accountable environment, and trusting new ownership with a new direction for the Globes."

Speaking with The Times in December, Boehly — who has served as the organization's interim chief executive since October 2021 — said that reconstituting as a for-profit entity would help professionalize a group that has been dogged for decades by scandals, in-fighting and questions of legitimacy.

Among other issues, members' demands for exclusive access to talent were a frequent source of tension within the industry, even as stars continued to court the group.

"How do you make people accountable?" Boehly asked. "Well, you transition the organization from a not-for-profit with no accountability and bad governance to an organization where there is employee-based accountability."

Boehly first proposed his plan to remake the organization nearly two years ago, as the HFPA was reeling in the wake of a February 2021 Times investigation that exposed a lack of diversity in its membership and raised concerns about its ethics and financial practices. The Times' probe revealed that the nonprofit made millions of dollars in payments to its own members for committee work and other tasks, in potential violation of IRS guidelines.

The investigation — particularly the revelation that the group had no Black members — sparked an uproar in Hollywood, prompting the HFPA to undertake sweeping reforms and ultimately leading NBC to pull the show off the air for 2022.

MAJOR CHANGES MADE

The group overhauled its bylaws and has more than tripled its ranks, recruiting scores of new nonmember international voters in an effort to boost its diversity and credibility. The Globes' total voting body now numbers more than 310 journalists. (The newly added voters will not be paid employees.)

Trying to restore the awards' luster and mend ruptured relations with Hollywood, the Globes returned to the air in January, with A-listers like Brad Pitt, Steven Spielberg and Rihanna once again strutting the red carpet. Ratings were down, however, with the telecast attracting an average of 6.25 million viewers, according to Nielsen data. In 2019, the show drew nearly 19 million viewers.

Under the association's new incarnation, its employees will receive an annual salary of $75,000 for their work. Their responsibilities will include screening films and TV series submitted for Golden Globe consideration, participating in the voting process for nominations and winners, creating content for the organization's website and managing materials related to the awards show and the group's history.

After a period of fierce internal debate, Boehly's plan was approved in July by the group's members. The new employment contract includes a "walk-away" clause, according to a copy reviewed by The Times, which would allow members to terminate their association with the group and receive $225,000 as severance. It is uncertain how many current members may choose to exercise this option.

ELDRIDGE PORTFOLIO

Eldridge Industries also owns stakes in several other businesses linked to the Globes, including the Penske-owned trade publications the Hollywood Reporter and Variety. The Eldridge portfolio also includes a minority stake in the independent film company A24, whose movies received 10 nominations at the most recent Golden Globes.

Some current and former HFPA members, as well as some in the wider awards ecosystem, have questioned whether the Globes — which have been routinely mocked even from their own stage — will have greater credibility as a for-profit enterprise, particularly given its owner's potential conflicts of interest.

Speaking with The Times last year, one former member who declined to be named for fear of retaliation said the move would "take away the last shred of legitimacy. They are now a commercial venture ... opaque, even less trustworthy."

Boehly has brushed aside criticisms that Globes employees — unlike, say, members of the film or television academies that who hand out the Oscars and Emmys, respectively — will essentially be paid awards voters.

"I wouldn't call them paid voters," Boehly told The Times last year, noting that voting would constitute only part of employees' role in the organization.

"I don't know why a paid journalist can't also vote on something. Where's the rule that says that?"

Even as the Golden Globes embark on this new chapter, their future remains uncertain.

In bringing the Globes back, NBC — which has aired the show since 1996 — committed to just a one-year trial. Boehly has spoken of his desire to expand the brand to international markets.

Next year's Globes, the 81st, are slated to air Jan. 7. But it remains to be seen whether that will be on NBC, another TV network or a streaming platform.

Speaking with The Times in December, Boehly was sanguine about the road ahead.

"Distribution systems are now global — now we have Netflix and Apple and Amazon," he said. "We have the opportunity to leverage those distribution systems with a brand that has 80 years of equity. I'm pretty excited about what that could look like, as long as there's good governance and good alignment."

Times staff writer Stacy Perman contributed to this report.

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
PERSIAN LESSONS NR 1:00 4:00 7:00
PADRE PIO R 1:20 7:20
RISE 4:10 PM
THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH 1:10 4:20 7:10

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
AMERICONNED 1:20 7:10
MENDING THE LINE R 1:00 4:10
LYNCH/OZ 1:10 4:10 7:00
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30
MASTER GARDENER R 4:20 PM
WHITE BUILDING 4:30 PM
BLACKBERRY R 4:00 7:00
IT AIN'T OVER PG 7:20 PM
CHILE '76 (1976) 1:30 7:30
TOURISTIC INTENTS 1:00 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
SOUL DOCTOR 7:00 PM
MENDING THE LINE R 4:10 PM
PADRE PIO R 7:20 PM
ABOUT MY FATHER PG-13 12:55 3:10 5:20 7:30
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:10 4:00 7:00
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 12:55 3:10 7:30
THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH 1:10 7:10
BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER PG-13 4:20 PM
IT AIN'T OVER PG 1:20 PM

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
SOUL DOCTOR 7:00 PM
TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10
THE BOOGEYMAN PG-13 1:30 7:30
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 1:20 4:00 7:00
ABOUT MY FATHER PG-13 1:30 4:30
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:10 4:10 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 4:20 PM
FAST X PG-13 1:20 4:00 7:00
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 1:00 6:45

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
THE ANGRY BLACK GIRL AND HER MONSTER 4:30 PM
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 1:10 4:00 7:00
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:00 4:10 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 7:20 PM
THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH 1:10 7:20
SANCTUARY R 4:20 PM
CHILE '76 (1976) 1:20 7:30
THE SECRET KINGDOM PG 4:10 PM
TOURISTIC INTENTS 1:00 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:10
THE BOOGEYMAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
LYNCH/OZ 1:15 7:10
RISE 1:20 PM
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 12:50 3:55 7:00
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:00 4:00 7:00
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 3:05 5:20 7:30
SANCTUARY R 4:20 PM
HEROES OF THE GOLDEN MASKS 12:50 4:20
SURVIVE 7:00 PM

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:20
THE BOOGEYMAN PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE PG 1:10 4:10 7:00
THE LITTLE MERMAID PG 1:10 4:00 7:10
YOU HURT MY FEELINGS R 1:30 7:30
SANCTUARY R 4:30 PM
TOURISTIC INTENTS 1:00 PM

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She found 'Joy' in Nashville

[**Lewis,** from E1] Stapleton and Brandi Carlile), the LP follows a series of personal losses for Lewis, including her mother, who died in 2019; a couple of show-business mentors in film-music editor Jerry Cohen and album-cover designer Gary Burden; and her social life for much of the year 2020, which she spent isolated at her place in the Studio City hills thanks to a history of serious childhood asthma that left her especially vulnerable to COVID.

Yet "Joy'All" exults in having survived hardship to inherit the wisdom of middle age. "My 40s are kicking my ass / And handing 'em to me in a margarita glass," she sings against a shuffling groove in "Puppy and a Truck"; later, the jazzy-soulful "The Essence of Life" defines that elusive state as both "suffering" and "ecstasy."

Lewis' new album also comes as she's embraced her role as a kind of godmother to a younger generation (or two) of rock artists, many of them women, writing with wit and acuity about the details of their emotional lives.

"Without Jenny Lewis there's no Phoebe Bridgers, there's no Soccer Mommy, there's no Boygenius," says Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie, who's been close with Lewis since he recruited her to sing background vocals on "Give Up," the 2003 debut by his electro-pop side project, the Postal Service.

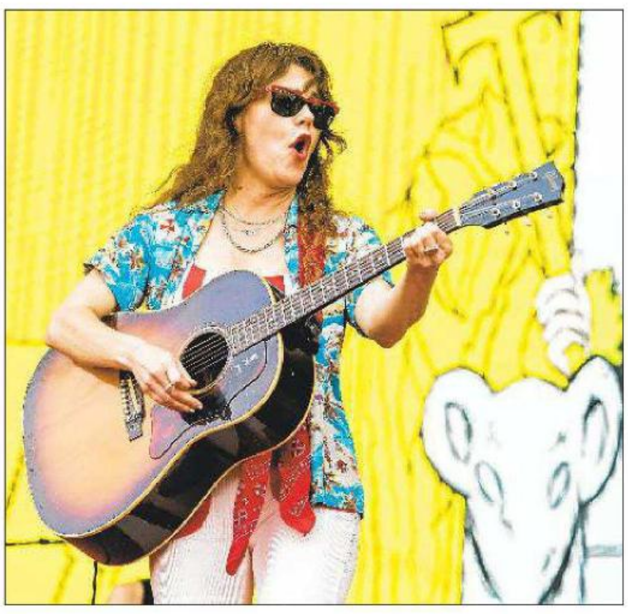
Curled in an armchair at home in Studio City — her little dog, Bobby Rhubarb, tucked next to her — Lewis smiles when asked on a recent afternoon how that hallowed position makes her feel.

"Stoked," she says. "And old." The sound of vintage reggae drifts from a cassette boombox in the kitchen; out back by the pool are dozens of small stones Lewis handpainted during the pandemic to evoke Salvation Mountain near the Salton Sea. "Once you realize you're at the age where not only can you write a memoir but you can be a mentor, that's a pretty big moment," says Lewis, who's wearing gold corduroys and a Grand Royal Records sweatshirt, her long red hair beneath a beat-up ball cap. "I do consider myself a pioneer. But a lot of these women that have looked up to my music, they've eclipsed my record sales or my streaming numbers, if you pay attention to that s—."

AN ARTIST'S ARTIST

Indeed, there's something of an underground-legend quality to Lewis, whose many other admirers include Katie Crutchfield of Waxahatchee and the L.A. sister trio Haim, whose Danielle Haim once played guitar in Lewis' live band. The singer has been thinking lately about the things that didn't quite happen in her career to bring real-deal pop stardom — like Rilo Kiley's buzzy 2004 single "Portions for Foxes" not becoming an "actual hit," as she puts it, or the time the band was in the running for a coveted performance slot on "Saturday Night Live" in 2007 only to see the show go dark amid that year's Hollywood writers' strike.

"That might've changed the course of history for us," she says of the "SNL" spot.

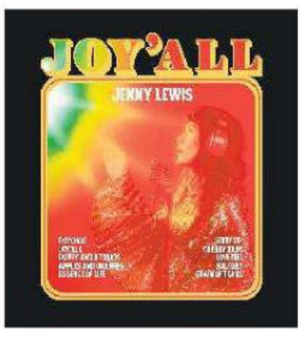


ERIKA GOLDRING WireImage/Getty Images

INDIE ROCKER Jenny Lewis performs at Railbird Music Festival in Lexington, Ky., earlier this month.

WENDY REDFERN Redferns/Getty Images

RILO KILEY band members Pierre de Reeder, left, Jenny Lewis, Blake Sennett and Jason Boesel.



Blue Note

Jenny Lewis

Joy'All

Blue Note

"But I actually wouldn't change anything. Not being on 'SNL' kind of led me to this moment where I'm in control of my art on every level."

In a funny twist, the serenely satisfied "Joy'All" — Lewis' fifth solo album and her first for the venerable Blue Note label — could be one to expand Lewis' audience. On the road in 2021 she played in front of hundreds of thousands of potential new fans as Harry Styles' opening act. The demand for a Rilo Kiley reunion seems to grow louder with every year. Even Lana Del Rey wrote a song about her, or so Lewis is pretty sure: "In 'Blue Banisters,' I'm assuming I'm the Jenny that jumped into a pool," she says of a line from the title track of Del Rey's 2021 LP.

"A friend of mine was staying in the back house," Lewis explains, nodding through a set of glass doors, "and Lana came to visit. We were hanging out and swimming, and throughout our conversation, she was sort of speaking into her voice notes [on her phone]. Later, she texted me — like, 'Hey, do you mind if I use this in a song?' Our conversation had made its way into her song, which is very beautiful." (Among Lewis' other high-profile pals is Jimmy Buffett, with whose family she's vacationed. "The Buffetts really know how to do it," she says. "Even if you're not a beachy person, they make you get in the water every day.")

Don Was, the Grammy-winning producer and Blue Note president, says Lewis "is pretty blasé about pop stardom. She's not doing stupid s— like chasing Justin Bieber." But, he adds, "Jenny's a very savvy person. She wants to reach people with her music."

Says Gibbard: "I've always gotten the sense that a spirit of anti-fame fame is appealing to her."

Lewis was born in Las Vegas, where her parents performed in casinos as a lounge act; her mom and dad split when she was 3, and her mom took her and her older sister to Van Nuys. Lewis spent the '80s working on sets: a Jell-O commercial, a gig on "Growing Pains," a role playing Shelley Long's daughter in "Troop Beverly Hills." Her memories of those days are shaped by her complicated relationship with her mother, who was addicted to heroin and used Lewis' earnings to buy drugs.

"This is sort of embarrassing, but I wet the bed until I was 8 or 9," Lewis says. She remembers driving to an audition in her mother's copper-colored Honda Accord when she "accidentally peed in the front seat. My mom was so mad at me. But I booked the job."

Lewis quit acting in her early 20s and formed Rilo Kiley with Blake Sennett, a fellow child actor. The band, which flexed an encyclopedic knowledge of rock history in tunes about ambition, sex and depression, spent a decade creeping right up to the big time before drifting apart around 2011. By the time she was 40, Lewis had solidly established herself as a solo act adored by in-the-know millennials and classic rockers alike.

Yet she'd also broken up with her longtime boyfriend, singer-songwriter Johnathan Rice, and decided "it was time to get out of the Valley." So she went to New York, where she lived for two years in her friend Annie Clark's East Village apartment while Clark, who performs as St. Vincent, lived in L.A. "We 'Freaky Friday'-ed," Lewis says. She and a couple of friends formed a scrappy, politically minded post-punk trio, Nice as F—, that played shows until late 2016, when one of the members was eight months pregnant. "And then Trump got elected and the mood just shifted," says Lewis, who recalls election night in Clark's fifth-floor walk-up. "You could hear the screams of the people in the building."

HEADING SOUTH

At the time, Lewis was dating someone who lived in Nashville and decided to give the town a try. "I'm not immersed in the music business there at all," she says. "I can do a little cowgirl cosplay, which is fun. But ultimately I'm not cut from that cloth. And according to the allergy test I took yesterday, I'm allergic to horses."

Even so, she's enjoying educating herself on the history of country music. She's been covering Keith Whitley's "Miami, My Amy" in concert; often she'll drive out to the cemetery in suburban Hendersonville where Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash are buried. "There's also this guy Merle Kilgore, who wrote 'Ring of Fire,' " she says. "His headstone is so flashy — like, it's totally upstaging Johnny and June. It's so Nashville, I love it."

Some of the songs on "Joy'All" came out of a virtual songwriting camp convened by musician Beck in early 2021, in which he'd give the participants various prompts, such as "Write a song using only clichés." (Lewis' response to that one was "Love Feel," with its talk of "fire and lightning" and "sugar in the gas tank.")

Lewis met producer Cobb through her friends in the L.A. duo Lucius, who were in Nashville making their album "Second Nature" with Carlile. Lewis identifies the '60s country-pop star Skeeter Davis as a crucial influence on her new album, though it's easy to hear Lindsey Buckingham in "Psychos" and Tom Petty in "Apples and Oranges."

The LP's sound is considerably leaner than Lewis' last few albums, which she attributes in part to the fact that she was trying to be COVID-cautious about how many people were in the studio at a given time. Says Cobb: "I just love her voice so much that I wanted to make that the thing." To the producer's ears, Lewis' singing "has this ability to soothe even when she's writing about some really deep stuff," he adds. "I hear real happiness in her voice on this record."

For her previous album, 2019's "On the Line," Lewis hired Ryan Adams to produce — a decision she grew to regret when, just weeks before the record dropped, Adams was accused by several women of sexual misconduct. (At the time, Adams denied the claims against him.) Lewis said then that Adams didn't abuse her, though today she's still "haunted" by something he told her in the studio, "which was, 'Enough of this campfire bulls—,' " she recalls. "But this record is a return to that campfire bulls—, because I want to be able to take my guitar and play these songs anywhere by myself."

A sense of self-sufficiency is important to Lewis in both her music and her life. In addition to Clark, she let other friends stay in her Studio City place while she was away, including a family with a newborn, which she thinks "cleansed the house" of whatever energy remained from her years there with Rice. "Then I had to come back and go through s—," she says. "It's way sparser now. I got rid of all the pictures on the walls — they were all of Johnathan." She looks around the living room, which is virtually empty beyond a chair, a sofa and a marimba sitting in the corner. "This is my space, and I love it. But I'm really happy that I have the luxury of going back and forth between here and a new place — making new memories somewhere else, having new romantic experiences in a different bed."

Lewis will spend much of this year on the road, playing festivals, headlining shows and opening arena dates for Beck and Phoenix (including an Aug. 7 stop at the Kia Forum) before joining Gibbard for a tour marking the 20th anniversary of the Postal Service album. (That tour will wrap in October with three nights at the Hollywood Bowl.)

For her current live band, which includes only women, "I want to create an environment that's safe, fun, not too serious — but serious in the work," she says. "I want to rehearse, and I want to get it right. Learning how to have these talks before you embark on a journey — like, 'Here are the ground rules' — I think that's really positive."

Did the experience with Adams make her feel responsible for more closely vetting the people she works with? "Yes," she replies. "I'm in charge of 12 people on tour — they're my responsibility. Whatever behavior was going on in 2004 does not fly now. I mean, it didn't fly back then, and I was uncomfortable with a lot of stuff. Hooking up with random fans in the bunks? That sucks. I hate that."

Lewis doesn't want to get into the specifics of who was doing what in 2004. But it's clear she's talking about some of the personality conflicts that eventually drove apart Rilo Kiley. Yet these days she seems more open to that longed-for reunion than she ever has.

"Playing those songs together would be really fun," she says. "Giving people the satisfaction of hearing songs that were a part of their formative high school experiences — that's a very special thing to provide. It's certainly something that's in our consciousness, and I think if the time is right in our relationships, then the music will be easy."

So: Coachella 2025?

"I feel like that's...," she says, trailing off with a laugh. "I don't think 2024." For now she's willing to "keep disappointing people" by withholding what they want. "They're always like, 'We miss how you were then!' " she says.

One wonders if encountering that attitude makes her want to dig in her heels regarding Rilo Kiley.

"Of course," Lewis says. "We're never ever ever getting back together, to quote Taylor Swift. But that's not true. I'm not a person who closes the door."

Carlson told to stop posting videos

Fox News cites a contract breach in demanding ex-host halt his Twitter show.

By Stephen Battaglio

Controversial news personality Tucker Carlson posted his second video on Twitter last week, and Fox News has had enough.

The network has sent a cease-and-desist letter to Carlson's attorneys, claiming the videos are in violation of Carlson's contract with Fox News Media, one of his attorneys said on Twitter.

Fox News declined to comment, but a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to speak publicly confirmed the action, which was first reported by Axios.

Carlson's program was canceled April 24, a week after the Rupert Murdoch-controlled network paid $787.5 million to settle a defamation suit filed by Dominion Voting Systems. But the right-wing commentator is still getting paid by Fox News.

The company believes it can keep him off TV and digital platforms over the length of the contract, which runs through 2024, according to people familiar with the details of his deal who were not authorized to speak publicly. The contract pays Carlson more than $15 million a year, according to sources.

Fox News declined to comment.

Carlson announced his Twitter program on May 9, although Elon Musk's company has no business arrangement with the host. Carlson has posted two short-form videos, giving monologues from his home.

Carlson's attorney Harmeet Dhillon said in a statement that the action by Fox News is an attempt to suppress the host's views.

"Fox News continues to ignore the interests of its viewers, not to mention its shareholder obligations," Dhillon said. "Doubling down on the most catastrophic programming decision in the history of the cable news industry, Fox is now demanding that Tucker Carlson be silent until after the 2024 election.

"Tucker will not be silenced by anyone," she added.

TV news business agents say privately that Carlson's attorneys have an uphill climb in trying to free Carlson to pursue other media opportunities. They said Carlson likely would have to give up all or some of his compensation from Fox News in order to be available for another TV or digital project.

Lou Dobbs, the former Fox News Business host also named in the Dominion suit, had his program canceled in early 2021. The network continued to honor his $5-million-a-year contract and he was unable to take his services elsewhere.

Janos Kummer Getty Images

FOX NEWS has sent its former host Tucker Carlson a cease-and-desist letter over his new Twitter show.

Dhillon did not respond to a request for comment.

Carlson — known for his inflammatory comments about race and immigration — was the top-rated prime-time host at Fox News before he was taken off the air.

Sources told The Times that Carlson's exit was tied to a discrimination lawsuit filed by Abby Grossberg, a producer who was fired by the network. She alleged that she was bullied and subjected to antisemitic comments when she worked on "Tucker Carlson Tonight." Fox News has denied the claim.

Murdoch made the call to oust Carlson.

The former host figured in the Dominion case against Fox News, which accused the conservative network of knowingly making false claims about the voting equipment company and its role in the 2020 presidential election.

The evidence and depositions in the Dominion case revealed texts by Carlson that were critical of Fox News correspondents who fact-checked the unfounded election-fraud claims on the network, even though it was revealed that he did not believe them himself.

Fox News has suffered a ratings decline since Carlson departed its prime-time schedule. His 8 p.m. Eastern hour was renamed "Fox News Tonight." The rotation of hosts who have appeared have pulled in about 50% of the 3 million-plus viewers that Carlson averaged each night, according to Nielsen data.

While some viewers have moved to the smaller right-wing competitor Newsmax, Fox News has maintained its status as the most-watched cable news channel.

She's Team Devi

Netflix

MAITREYI RAMAKRISHNAN, right, with "Never" co-star Ramona Young.

[**'Never,'** from E1]

I was like Busta Rhymes with my lines."

When I first talked with Ramakrishnan ahead of the show's launch in April 2020, during the early days of shelter-at-home orders for the COVID-19 pandemic, it was over Zoom — I was in my L.A. apartment; she was in her family's dining room. She spoke energetically about the joys of playing the video game "Animal Crossing: New Horizons," her obsession with the TV series "Community" and painting Van Gogh's "Starry Night" on a piece of bedroom furniture.

Now, the show that introduced Ramakrishnan to the world has released its fourth and final season. The concluding episodes of "Never Have I Ever" follow Devi as a senior eager to graduate but anxious about her future after she's placed on the waitlist for her dream school, Princeton. (In the end, she makes it in.)

Sitting at a table inside a restaurant at a West Hollywood hotel on a recent weekday, Ramakrishnan, now 21, is as effervescent and affable as ever discussing the final season in between moments of praising the "Shrek" soundtrack and jokingly expressing frustration at her cast's poor showing on "Family Feud."

In the time since filming wrapped last summer, Ramakrishnan, like her fictional alter ego, headed to college. After initially deferring admission to York University in Canada to make her Hollywood debut, the actor began a full course load in September. While she spent her early years convinced she'd work in animation, with age came the realization that goals evolve. She's studying to get a degree in human rights and equity studies. But, no, she doesn't want to become a lawyer.

"You can get knowledge and education from any corner of the planet, but I'm mostly privileged to be able to go to university," she says. "So that's why I'm really going. I like learning. I have the ability to, and I am even more lucky to learn something that I don't necessarily need to go into professionally."

Ramakrishnan discussed where Devi finds herself by the end of the series, why she said she was on different teams (Ben or Paxton) to different outlets, and the one school club she's actually a member of. This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

We see that Devi gets into the school that she had her eyes set on this whole time — Princeton. What did you think of how things ended for her?

Heavy plot armor on the fact that she's never getting into any other college. That's OK — it's TV, I'll allow it. Makes good television. But there's no way she didn't get into any other one. Come on! That makes no sense! But I liked that she didn't get it right away.

Low-key in Season 2, I was kind of rooting for the idea that she doesn't even go to Princeton at all. This was

Evan Mulling For The Times

RAMAKRISHNAN started playing Devi right after high school.

a selfish thing for me because I knew when I was 10 years old that I wanted to go to Sheridan College. I wanted to go to the animation program, get pulled out of there and go straight to Pixar. That was what the dream was. And then I got to my last year, my senior year of high school, was working on my portfolio and realized I was miserable and I had to let go of a childhood dream.

We get so locked on those.

Yes. And I became the girl that was known as "the girl with the dream of being a Disney animator." And when I knew I didn't want to do that deep down, not only did I feel like I let down my mom and my dad, who put so much time and money into art classes and art supplies, and my friends who have known me in trying to become that person, but I felt like I was letting down my 10-year-old self. But I think I learned I can't live for my 10-year-old self; I have to live with the current self. It's OK to change your dream. So, we get the scripts as we go along and as we film, and I thought for a moment, Devi was just actually not gonna get in — at all. So, I don't mind the plot armor.

Do you know if there was a version where she didn't get accepted in the end?

There were alternate versions, which I'm glad they didn't go down.

Like what? Mindy and Lang aren't doing press right now because of the writers' strike.

The writers are so amazing. They really explore everything and I think they always nail it. The show would not be what it is without them. I think there was one version where she got in [to Princeton] earlier. There was one version where she got waitlisted at both Columbia and Princeton. I saw that only in one draft and it was gone. I was like, "Hell no. Hell no. Columbia was never an option, sweetheart. Uh-uh. We ain't switching our minds for a boy."

'Never Have I Ever'

Where: Netflix

When: Anytime

Rating: TV-14 (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 14, with advisories for substance abuse, coarse language and suggestive dialogue)

I think they were going to put it in there just like a tease, but they would never have Devi do that. Devi was never going to go to Columbia. But I think, honestly, it was pretty solidly that Devi was going to end up going to Princeton, and that was going to be the dream fulfilled. I am a sucker for a good story of chasing your dreams. I would have been happy either way, but I do like seeing dreams succeed.

We also see that Devi ends up with Ben. How did you feel about that?

For me, the show ending is not about the last scene where they're in the dorm together. For me, the ending is more about the fact that she's back at the altar, and she's praying, and she's so grateful for not only the people around her but the life she's living. In that scene, when I was acting that out, it was very easy because I was just thinking about the gratitude that I have for the show, the opportunity, for the crew members that have worked on the show and have taught me so many things, for Mindy, for the fans, for my family.

My mom and my dad drove me to work every single day [for] Season 1, 2 and 3. And never once did they complain to me. Never once. So, it was so easy to act out that scene. It was important to me to hit it exactly right to show overwhelming gratitude — that was the emotion I wanted to portray. In terms of who she ends up with, eh, it's not the point. But I said people could ask me whose team I'm on.

Yes, I saw the tweet.

OK, so, I'm Team Paxton. I get it. I get it. He's a year older. Valid. He needed to not be in her life — for now. But hear me out. I think that Paxton (Darren Barnet) and Ben (Jaren Lewison) are great people, but Paxton and Devi are nice opposites. Personally, I think he brings out a different side of Devi that doesn't focus on academics because she focuses on academics herself. She needs someone to see outside of that. That would be why I like them together.

Did you think there was going to be an "I choose me" moment instead? She's young, bound for college, and seems like she'd be totally fine with not being tethered.

See, I kind of wanted that, just for ease. But I understand where fans would be coming from of being like, "Ew, cheesy." But I'm a cheesy guy! Sue me! That ending, for me, of her choosing Ben, it's as John McEnroe [who is the show's narrator] says, "For now." It's literally *for now.*

You're not that far removed from that whole senior-year experience that we see in this final season. I am part of the generation that just missed the era of making a hoopla around college acceptance letters. There's TikTok videos where seniors document themselves checking their admissions status, Instagram photos with their rooms decked out in college colors.

A lot of people take a lot of pride in going to school. I sometimes wonder maybe if that would have been me, if I didn't live the "Never Have I Ever" life. I get the appeal, especially just in the age where everyone wants to document what they're doing. That's a fun vibe.

I go into campus, [and] I leave as soon as I can. I'm a part of one club. It's the York University Super Smash Bros. Club. It's just a Discord channel, where people talk about different competitions happening for Super Smash Bros., which is my favorite video game. But that's it. I've never met any of the other members. I have two friends at the university.

You mentioned that your parents relocated so you could have this experience. I imagine, either knowingly or unknowingly, that put a lot of pressure on you because they uprooted their lives.

I felt pressure to be less of a brat at 17, give them less of a hard time every so often [and] tone down the meltdowns. In all seriousness, my mom, before the pandemic, took off to work from home; her boss was super cool to let her work from home in L.A.

Then, halfway through filming, she switched out with my dad. It definitely made me feel a little bit of pressure, but also not really because, and this is just how my family rolls, I knew without a doubt my parents were gonna do that for me. That wasn't even a question. It was pressure in the sense of, "OK, you're doing everything for me. I have no reason to not be on my 'A' game."

Tell me about impostor syndrome. Did this experience show you what you're capable of?

As an actor, it showed me that I'm capable of way more than I thought. I thought Mindy was freaking crazy. I was like, "You're Mindy Kaling. Why are you putting your name to this random girl? Are you insane?" But I realized, as I was working on my last episode in Season 4 and looking back, how much I know now. I really did pick it up. A lot of my peers have been child stars or they've just been in the game or they have family members who are in this world, so they've been around it. No one in my family is in the entertainment industry in any aspect, let alone acting.

It gets intimidating because you have people kind of sizing you up. Being sized up in front of a bunch of different cameras, where you're expected to be like, "I'm so confident" — no, I'm not. I don't think any human is meant to be viewed by millions [of people] and have millions of people's opinions projected on you. That's a lot of stress. Now, though, I've grown to realize — yeah, I did 40 episodes, and I'm the only one in every single one. That's pretty amazing. And I helped lead it for four seasons. And I did that on my first shot — that is pretty freakin' cool.

I'm meant to do this. I'm meant to be here just as much as anyone else. And if people question the science of how I got there — I like to tell people I'm a nepo baby of Mindy Kaling. I feel like that helps people comprehend it better. It's not true, but it might help the narrative.

You talked about not being in the best mental state when this opportunity presented itself. How much did that weigh on you when considering whether to take on this experience? Did you worry this exposure, and the pressures that come with it, might be more detrimental to your well being?

I think I was the extreme opposite. I was like, "Let's go, guns blazing!" Really. It's a good and a bad thing because I had a very good thing come to me. I have a brilliant gift in knowing what I like to do with the rest of my life. But that meant, "Maitreyi, you need to unpack. Maitreyi, you're not very happy. Maitreyi, you have a lot of sad things in your brain and you should unpack that." And I think with the help of Devi, I did actually get to.

There's no instruction guide for being catapulted into this industry, especially on a series that's on a global platform, especially as a young woman of color. How have you navigated that?

I have a couple of things that I tell myself, like morals. No. 1: Don't tweet anything or comment anything or say anything in an interview that you're not willing to talk about 10 minutes later. If you're going to tweet an article about something, if you're not willing to have any news outlet hit you up to ask for an interview about it, then don't talk about it. Keep reading. That's one.

No. 2: The sad truth is, the audience, no matter how much they love you, no one will ever know you for who you are better than you'll know yourself. That was a big one I had to learn because with the birth of Devi, especially in Season 1, felt like the death of Maitreyi. I would try to push myself to be like, "Oh, I'm not like Devi. Look at me, I'm so different." Because I just wanted people to know that Maitreyi existed because I love who I am. I don't want me to disappear. But then I realized, I only disappear if I let myself disappear.

Another big one was simply about representation. I learned that Devi can't possibly represent every South Asian girl — no way — or we would get a blob of a character and she'd be shapeless, and she would have no personality. Then I realized, "Oh, you know what? Not everyone can relate to me. Not every South Asian girl can look at me and say, 'Oh, I'm like her.' "

What are you excited for next? You've done some voice-over work. I know you've been in school, but have there been many auditions?

Still auditioning, which is like a reverse experience. It's been interesting. Sometimes you get real close, and it just doesn't pan out. You learn rejection, as many actors do. We still have a long way to go, but I think my team finds those good scripts, and my team is always constantly challenging what's called for: OK, this could be a brown girl, there's nothing explicit about race, let's try. That's how I like to operate.

I do get impatient just because I'm a workaholic. But one of the best pieces of advice I got from a casting director was just to go live life because it only enriches your performances. I feel like there's a lot of pressure when actors finish big things, to have something big lined up right away. Please do not forget about me! Give me a couple of months! But I'm trying to remember it's OK to not really have anything planned because the unknown is quite exciting.

It was so great catching up with you and finally getting to meet in person. Congratulations on wrapping up the series.

Can I say one thing because I actually like you, so I can't be a jerk? I have this thing where I've been telling everyone I have a different team. So the next interview that I do, and they tell me that they're coming out with their interview after the show releases, I will tell them I'm Team Ben. ... You can add this at the end of the interview: "She lied. Disclaimer: She completely lied."

If you read this article fully, you will know that I'm Team Devi. For the past four years, an interviewer will ask me, "OK, but what team are you really on?" After I say Team Devi, they'll be like, "Yeah, OK, but really, you can tell us." Do you really think the girl that's repping brown girls all over the world really believes that she belongs with one of these white guys? Really? It's gonna happen tomorrow at the junket. All of them are going to ask me which team I'm on. And every single time, I'm going to change it. The real answer is, genuinely, I'm Team Devi.

I wish personally that it did go in a way where McEnroe added extra words, something along the lines of, "Then they broke up." Because what did you expect? They're high schoolers. That is what I wanted. But alas, it didn't happen, but it's OK. We live.

COMICS

SUDOKU

Level: Gentle

8	6			9		2	5	
							3	
		5						9
	9		7	5			2	
			9		6			
	7			4	8		6	
3						8		
	2							
	1	9		2		4	7	5

Level: Gentle

			6		
			2		4
	3				
		4		5	
4		3			
	5	2			

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6	9	2	7	1	3	8	5	4
5	1	3	8	2	4	6	9	7
4	7	8	6	5	9	3	2	1
9	8	5	3	6	1	7	4	2
2	3	4	5	8	7	9	1	6
7	6	1	4	9	2	5	3	8
8	4	9	1	7	5	2	6	3
1	2	7	9	3	6	4	8	5
3	5	6	2	4	8	1	7	9

2	1	5	4	3	6
6	3	4	1	2	5
4	5	2	3	6	1
1	6	3	5	4	2
3	2	1	6	5	4
5	4	6	2	1	3

Solutions to Monday's puzzles

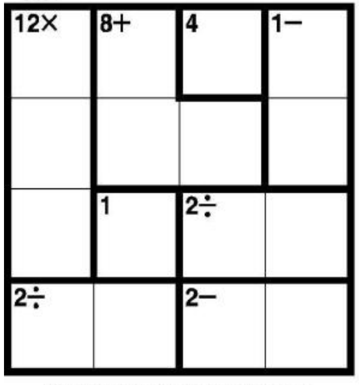
6/13/23

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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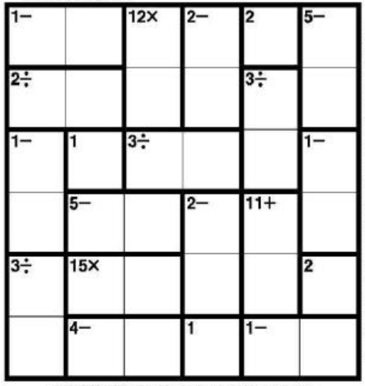
CHALLENGING



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PREVIOUS ANSWERS

3– 1	4	6× 3	2
7+ 4	6× 3	2 2	3– 1
3	2	5+ 1	4
2÷ 2	1	4	3 3

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2– 2	4	11+ 6	5	3÷ 1	3
1– 5	5– 6	1	1– 2	3	4 4
4	2 2	60× 5	2÷ 3	6	4– 1
2– 1	3	2	6	4 4	5
12+ 3	5	4	3+ 1	2	3÷ 6
5– 6	1	3 3	1– 4	5	2

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6/13/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your sophistication of mind allows you to tolerate differences and respect people's right to live in the way that works for them.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Because groups have greater power than the sum of their parts, you'll be extremely careful who you join. The right group can bring magic to your life.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): A problem will be yours to solve. Avoid an overly linear approach. Think broadly across many subjects and disciplines.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You'll knock yourself out for people you care for — not easy, but not caring would be harder for you. Invite someone to join your quest and you'll make a memory.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): A person's behavior at any given moment is usually their best attempt to get their needs met with the tools, knowledge and abilities they have.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll try and communicate in fewer words, or better yet, none. Action can say it all.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You allot people a certain amount of your time and there are those who continually stretch it, a signal that they wish to be more important to you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You'll be made aware of a need in your community you can help with. Your action will have a ripple effect that extends beyond what you realize.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've spent plenty of time in the music of your own thoughts, and now it's time to expand your range.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): With a group that's a good fit, you can express yourself and still promote the collective agenda, no problem.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Today, you'll work toward a lifestyle that includes fewer obligations and possessions.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Seeking approval from oneself instead of others takes time and practice and is so worth the effort.

Today's birthday (June 13): It's your year for finding people who really get you. You'll fix specific pains and receive the loyalty and patronage of devotees. Your understanding of the world is ever-expanding, and you'll achieve heights beyond your former teachers. More highlights: Inspiration from strange places will lead you to create an amazement. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers: 8, 40, 21, 3 and 6.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Jamey Smith

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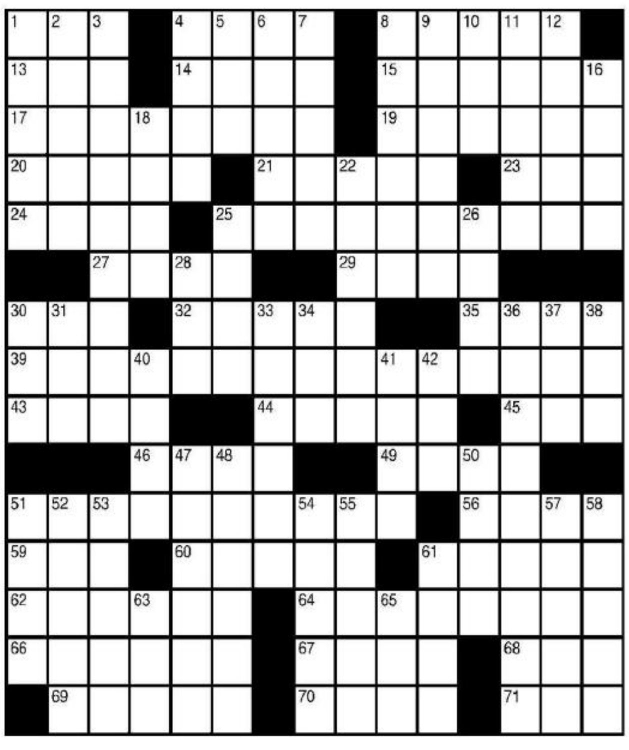


ACROSS

1 Cornfield cry
4 Insect whose larvae eat clothes
8 Hawaiian dances
13 German cry
14 Curly hairstyle
15 "And so on"
17 *High-intensity workout regimen
19 Radio tuner
20 Oodles
21 Fresh style
23 Out __ limb
24 "¿Cómo __ usted?"
25 *Feasibility assessment of a large project
27 RN's needle
29 Guthrie's "Today" co-anchor
30 Wonderment
32 Swiss biotech giant
35 "A Death in the Family" writer James
39 *Buttery choice in a bread basket
43 Boardroom bigwig
44 Pink Lady, for one
45 Meditative sounds
46 "Oh, now I see"
49 Like most fine wines
51 *Pattern inspired by nature
56 Some spicy fare
59 Eclectic musician Brian
60 Biscayne Bay city
61 Course-reversing move
62 Observes, with "on"
64 Writers' aliases, and what are found at the starts of the answers to the starred clues
66 Bring down on the gridiron
67 Sound like this this this this
68 Undivided
69 Kid
70 Not as much
71 __ race

DOWN

1 Hidden stockpile
2 Central Park's 843
3 "Easy, tiger"
4 Component of momentum
5 Not quite right
6 "If I Had a Hammer" singer Lopez
7 Bellhop's employer
8 Set out for
9 Greatest extent
10 HDTV choice
11 Vowel quintet
12 Bear
16 Court surface for tennis's French Open
18 Fix, as a pet
22 Started the day
25 Low-quality
26 Letter-shaped ski lift
28 Teen leader?
30 "Gorillas in the Mist" primate
31 Candle stuff
33 Yoga energy point
34 Quick trip
36 Ice cream brand with a truck logo
37 Blight-stricken tree species
38 Trains that rumble overhead
40 1980s Chrysler compact
41 Shutter part
42 Brain scan letters
47 Skywalker player
48 Expressed a view
50 Blues Hall of Famer James
51 Fragrant scraping
52 Room-sized early computer
53 Make a mess of
54 Spur into action
55 Dorothy, to Auntie Em
57 Portland's Moda Center, e.g.
58 Map detail
61 Chicago-style pizza chain, familiarly
63 Winter runner
65 British medical sys.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	I	C	E		P	E	L	O	S	I		N	E	V
U	T	I	L		A	D	O	B	E	S		I	C	E
F	L	A	M	I	N	G	L	I	P	S		G	R	R
F	L	O	S	S	I	E		S	T	U	B	H	U	B
				U	N	I	T			E	A	T		
	B	L	A	Z	I	N	G	S	A	D	D	L	E	S
	R	E	N	U			I	O	N			I	L	L
T	O	O	T	S	I	E		N	I	C	E	G	U	Y
N	I	T			A	G	E			A	D	H	D	
G	L	O	W	I	N	G	T	R	I	B	U	T	E	
		L	I	N			S	E	L	A				
M	I	S	T	A	K	E		E	L	N	O	R	T	E
E	S	T		F	I	R	E	S	T	A	R	T	E	R
T	A	O		O	L	I	V	E	R		B	E	E	R
S	K	Y		G	O	E	A	S	Y		S	S	N	S

6/13/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

A loser-on-loser play is a "buy-one-get-one-free" deal — and everyone likes those. You lose an unnecessary trick but trade one loser for another. In the process you develop an extra winner.

Such plays gain in many situations. Today's West leads the ace of diamonds against four hearts. Say South ruffs, draws trumps and leads a spade to dummy's 10. East takes the queen and leads the jack of clubs, and the defense gets three clubs. Down one.

South has the material for 10 tricks — seven winners in trumps and three in spades — but he must not let East get in for a club shift. At the first trick, declarer discards a spade, trading a diamond loser for a possible spade loser.

If West shifts to a trump, South wins, takes the A-K of spades and leads the jack. If East covers, South ruffs, leads a trump to dummy and discards a club on the high 10 of spades. If instead East follows low, South pitches a club. He loses at most three tricks however the cards lie.

You hold: ♠ 8 7 ♥ 2 ♦ A J 8 6 4 3 ♣ A Q 10 8. Your partner deals and opens 1NT. The next player passes. What do you say?

Answer: In an unfamiliar partnership, with no special bidding agreements, you would have to bid five diamonds or 3NT. Regular tournament partnerships would have a way to look for the best contract. For instance, responder might start with a bid of two spades as a "transfer" to 2NT, then bid three diamonds to suggest a strong, unbalanced hand.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A K J 10
♥ 9 7 5 3
♦ K
♣ 7 5 3 2

WEST
♠ 8 7
♥ 2
♦ A J 8 6 4 3
♣ A Q 10 8

EAST
♠ Q 9 3 2
♥ Q
♦ Q 10 9 7 5 2
♣ J 9

SOUTH
♠ 6 5 4
♥ A K J 10 8 6 4
♦ None
♣ K 6 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — ♦ A

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Get it all out, then toss it

Dear Amy: I am a 58-year-old worker who was recently laid off.

My company hired someone to turn around the department and she failed miserably.

The company terminated her and then threw the babies out with the bathwater, getting rid of me and another co-worker at the same time.

I guess it worked out well for them because the other fired co-worker and I were outspoken about what was going on in our department.

We knew the new model would fail and it did.

The hiring manager who created this mess in this extremely toxic environment is a nightmare.

Most employees fear her because she is cruel, condescending and a narcissist. I have seen her reduce people to tears. She is a bully.

This person needs to be told off, and I want to be the one to do it.

Should I express myself, copying her manager and the CEO, as people need to know what's going on? Or should I let it go and move on? I really feel the need to express myself so that I can leave this behind.

Terminated

Dear Terminated: Definitely write the letter. Get it all out!

Tape the letter to your refrigerator for a week so that every time you reach for the milk, you see it. Grrrr; you really let her have it!

And then, when you've worked through your rage about this, destroy the letter and move on with the next phase of your life.

You "knew the new model would fail and it did." You were outspoken about problems while working there.

Given the company's choice to excise your team, they must be aware of the issues that affected it.

Someone may be hired specifically to eliminate positions. Once they've done so, they get the ax.

My larger point is that expressing your unfiltered views could end up backfiring on you in unforeseen ways, affecting your ability to get another position.

Dear Amy: I am friends with a single mother who works two low-wage jobs.

There are some months when she can't pay her bills.

I have loaned her money many times. The problem is that it's like pulling teeth to get my money back.

She seems to feel that since I get a decent retirement check and Social Security check, I don't need my money back.

Also, whenever we go out to eat, she feels like I should always pick up the tab.

I worked for 33 years for the state where I live, which has one of the highest costs of living in the U.S., so I need to be careful with my money.

How can I get her to understand that I need my money?

Generous

Dear Generous: One way that people successfully get repaid is to make it clear that no more money will be loaned until the previous owed amount is repaid.

However, I think your expectations of this hardworking single mom are unreasonable. She is barely keeping her head above water, and in helping her you are also helping her children.

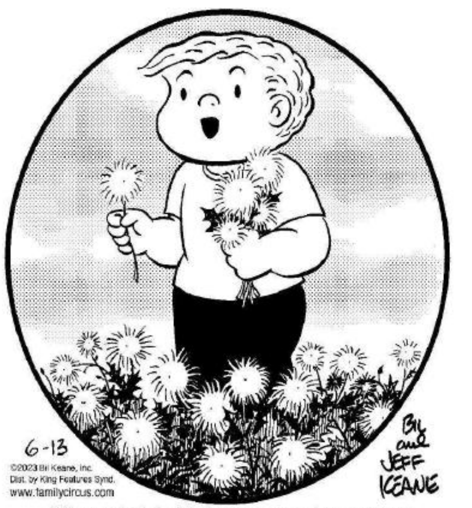
You should feel good about your own generosity.

Never lend more than you can afford to lose, in case she can't or won't repay you.

And yes, you should pick up the check when you two eat out. Doing this is giving your friend a treat — and a break. If you can't afford to do this, don't eat out.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com.*

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane


6-13
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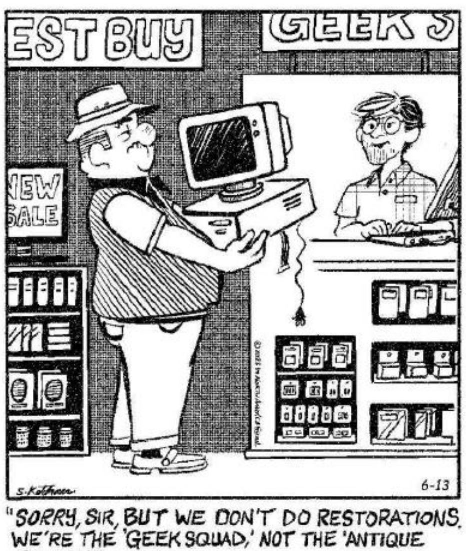
www.familycircus.com
By Bil and Jeff Keane

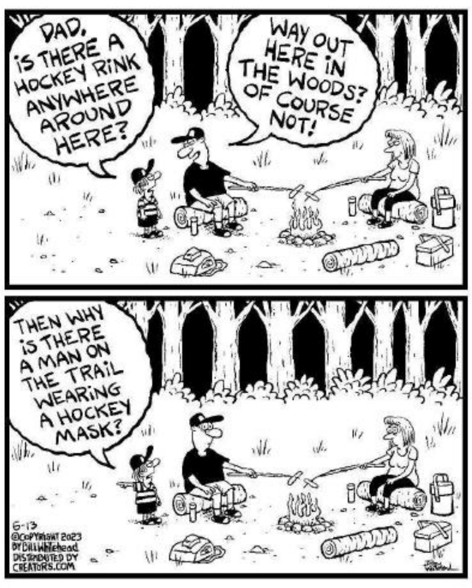
"I'm pickin' Mommy a bouquet of fuzzballs."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



"SORRY, SIR, BUT WE DON'T DO RESTORATIONS. WE'RE THE 'GEEK SQUAD,' NOT THE 'ANTIQUE SQUAD'."

FREE RANGE By Bill Whitehead


DAD, IS THERE A HOCKEY RINK ANYWHERE AROUND HERE?
WAY OUT HERE IN THE WOODS? OF COURSE NOT!
THEN WHY IS THERE A MAN ON THE TRAIL WEARING A HOCKEY MASK?
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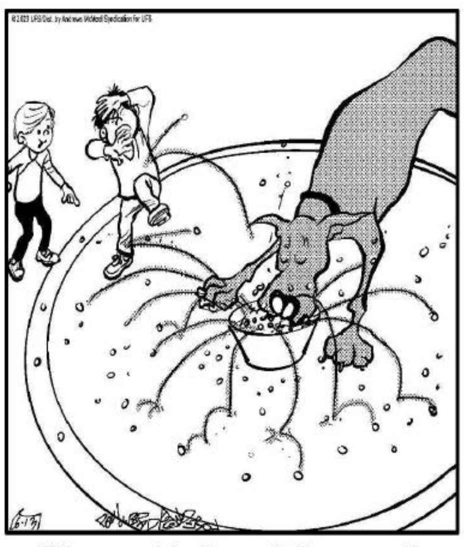
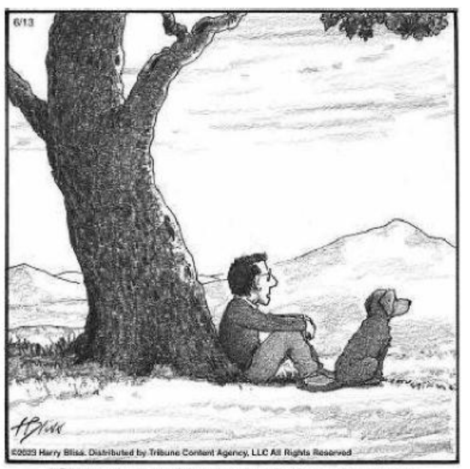
MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



"You went to the splatter zone."

BLISS By Harry Bliss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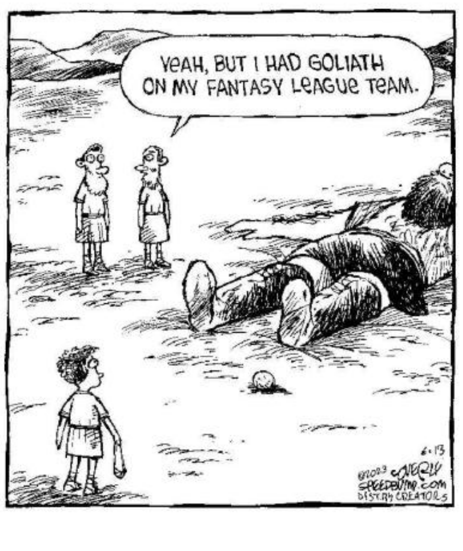
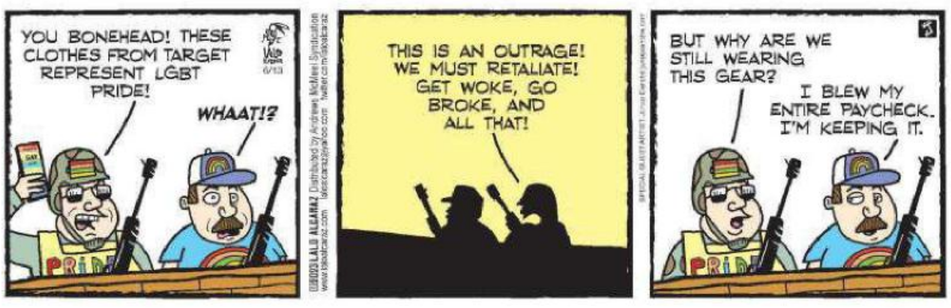
"Sitting here with you each day at sunset reminds me I have to get a job."

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

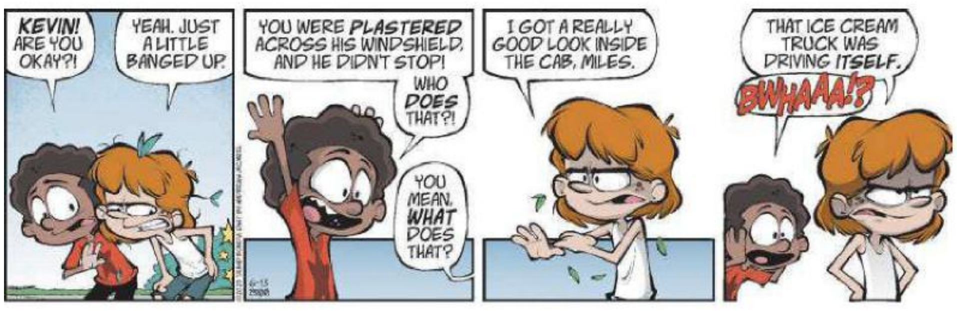


COMICS

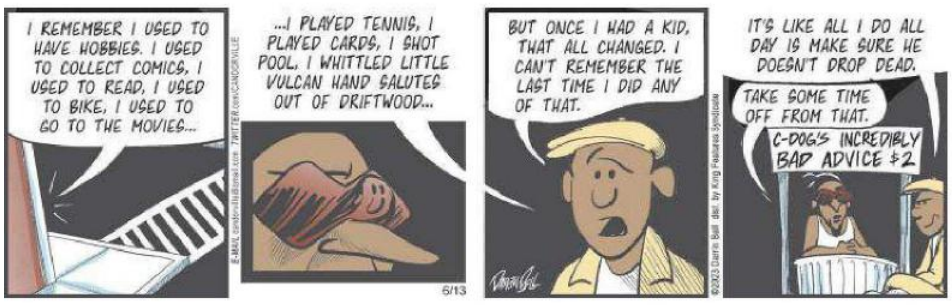
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


YOU BONEHEAD! THESE CLOTHES FROM TARGET REPRESENT LGBT PRIDE!
WHAAT!?
6/13
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! WE MUST RETALIATE! GET WOKE, GO BROKE, AND ALL THAT!
BUT WHY ARE WE STILL WEARING THIS GEAR?
I BLEW MY ENTIRE PAYCHECK. I'M KEEPING IT.
PRIDE

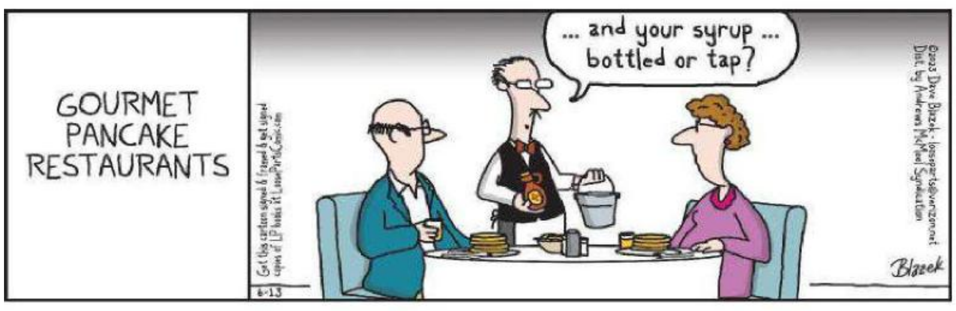
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


KEVIN! ARE YOU OKAY?!
YEAH. JUST A LITTLE BANGED UP.
YOU WERE PLASTERED ACROSS HIS WINDSHIELD, AND HE DIDN'T STOP!
WHO DOES THAT?!
YOU MEAN, WHAT DOES THAT?
I GOT A REALLY GOOD LOOK INSIDE THE CAB, MILES.
THAT ICE CREAM TRUCK WAS DRIVING ITSELF.
BWHAAA!?
6-13

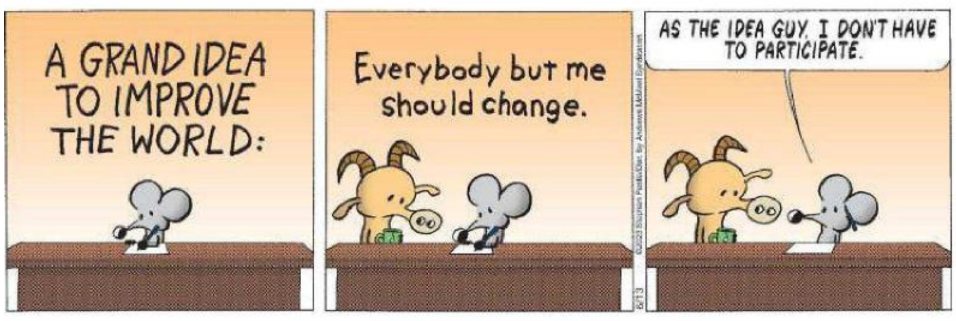
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


I REMEMBER I USED TO HAVE HOBBIES. I USED TO COLLECT COMICS, I USED TO READ, I USED TO BIKE, I USED TO GO TO THE MOVIES...
...I PLAYED TENNIS, I PLAYED CARDS, I SHOT POOL, I WHITTLED LITTLE VULCAN HAND SALUTES OUT OF DRIFTWOOD...
BUT ONCE I HAD A KID, THAT ALL CHANGED. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I DID ANY OF THAT.
IT'S LIKE ALL I DO ALL DAY IS MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T DROP DEAD.
TAKE SOME TIME OFF FROM THAT.
C-DOG'S INCREDIBLY BAD ADVICE $2
6/13

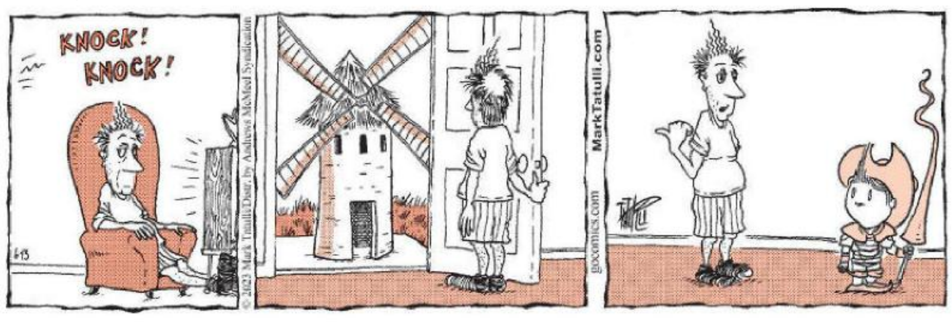
LOOSE PARTS By Dave Blazek


GOURMET PANCAKE RESTAURANTS
... and your syrup ... bottled or tap?
6-13
Blazek

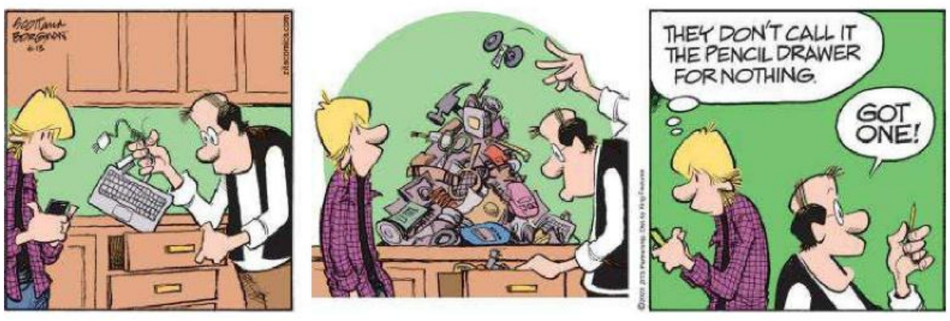
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


A GRAND IDEA TO IMPROVE THE WORLD:
Everybody but me should change.
AS THE IDEA GUY, I DON'T HAVE TO PARTICIPATE.
6/13

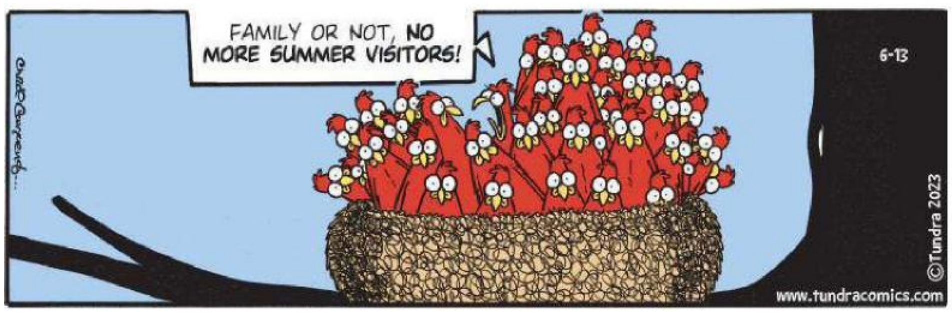
LIO By Mark Tatulli


KNOCK! KNOCK!
6-13
MarkTatulli.com
gocomics.com

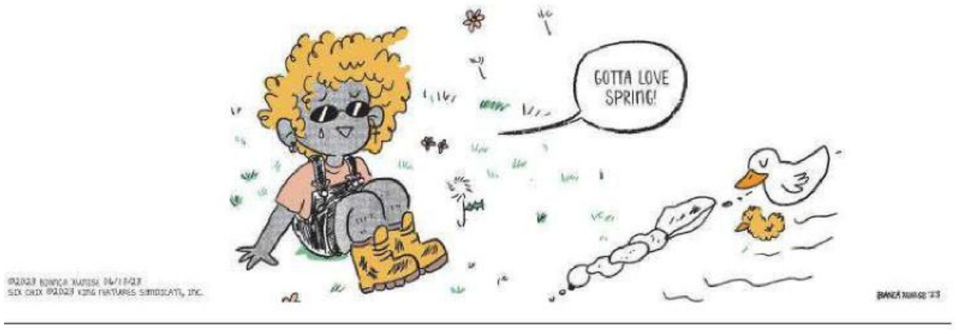
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman


SCOTT AND BORGMAN 6-13
zitscomics.com
THEY DON'T CALL IT THE PENCIL DRAWER FOR NOTHING.
GOT ONE!

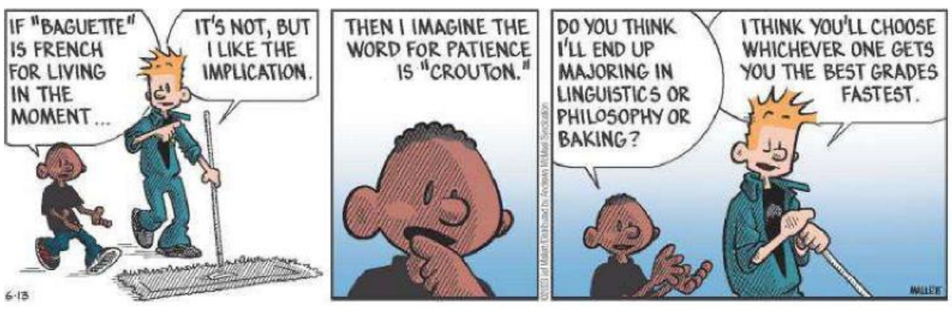
TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter


FAMILY OR NOT, NO MORE SUMMER VISITORS!
6-13
©Tundra 2023
www.tundracomics.com

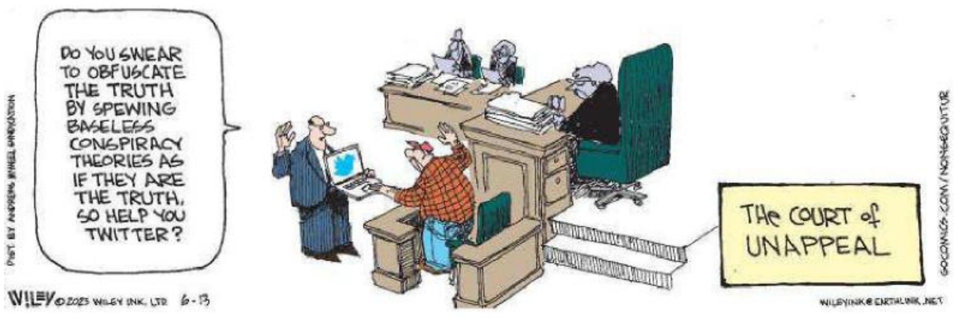
SIX CHIX By Bianca Xunise


GOTTA LOVE SPRING!

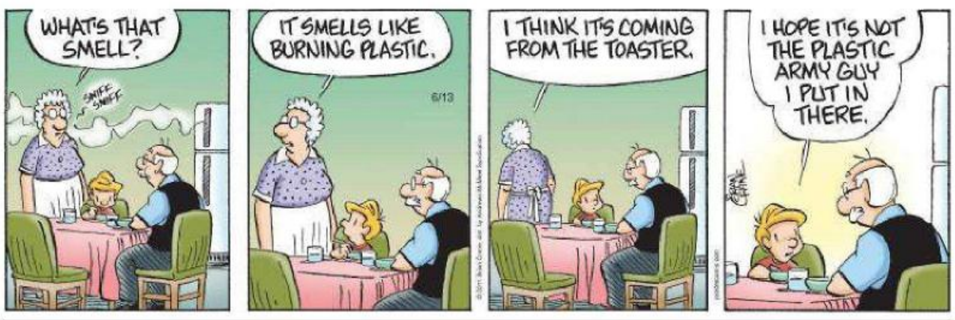
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


IF "BAGUETTE" IS FRENCH FOR LIVING IN THE MOMENT...
IT'S NOT, BUT I LIKE THE IMPLICATION.
THEN I IMAGINE THE WORD FOR PATIENCE IS "CROUTON."
DO YOU THINK I'LL END UP MAJORING IN LINGUISTICS OR PHILOSOPHY OR BAKING?
I THINK YOU'LL CHOOSE WHICHEVER ONE GETS YOU THE BEST GRADES FASTEST.
6-13
MALLETT

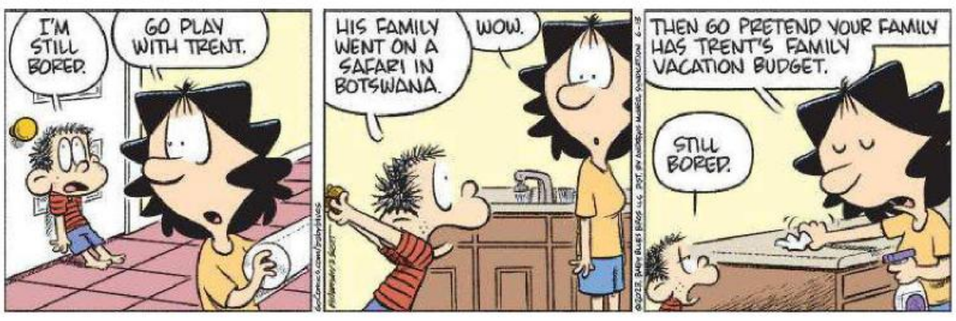
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


DO YOU SWEAR TO OBFUSCATE THE TRUTH BY SPEWING BASELESS CONSPIRACY THEORIES AS IF THEY ARE THE TRUTH, SO HELP YOU TWITTER?
THE COURT OF UNAPPEAL
WILEY ©2023 WILEY INK, LTD 6-13
GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR
WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET

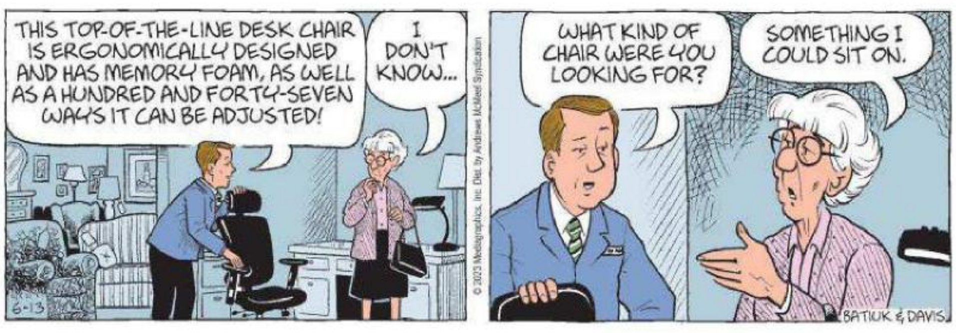
PICKLES By Brian Crane


WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
SNIFF SNIFF
IT SMELLS LIKE BURNING PLASTIC.
6/13
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM THE TOASTER.
I HOPE IT'S NOT THE PLASTIC ARMY GUY I PUT IN THERE.

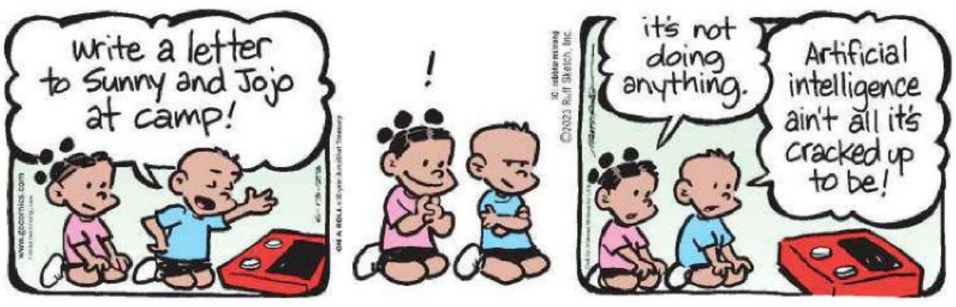
BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman


I'M STILL BORED.
GO PLAY WITH TRENT.
HIS FAMILY WENT ON A SAFARI IN BOTSWANA.
WOW.
THEN GO PRETEND YOUR FAMILY HAS TRENT'S FAMILY VACATION BUDGET.
STILL BORED.
6-13

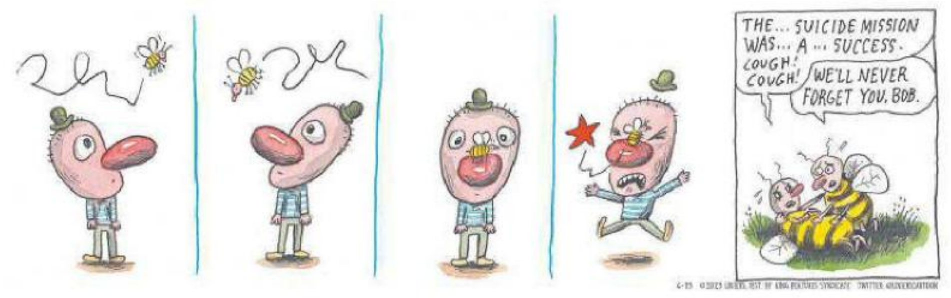
CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers


THIS TOP-OF-THE-LINE DESK CHAIR IS ERGONOMICALLY DESIGNED AND HAS MEMORY FOAM, AS WELL AS A HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN WAYS IT CAN BE ADJUSTED!
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT KIND OF CHAIR WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?
SOMETHING I COULD SIT ON.
6-13
BATIUK & DAVIS

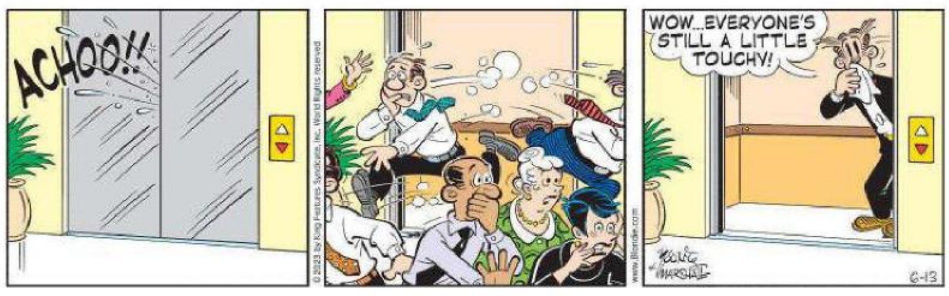
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong


write a letter to Sunny and Jojo at camp!
!
it's not doing anything.
Artificial intelligence ain't all it's cracked up to be!
www.gocomics.com

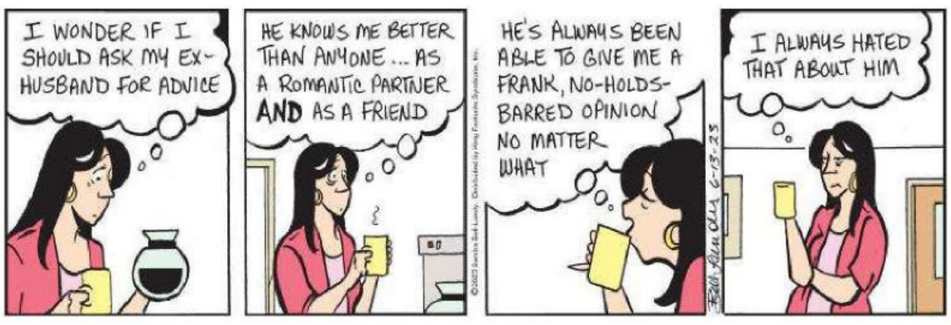
MACANUDO By Liniers


THE... SUICIDE MISSION WAS... A ... SUCCESS. COUGH! COUGH!
WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, BOB.
6-13

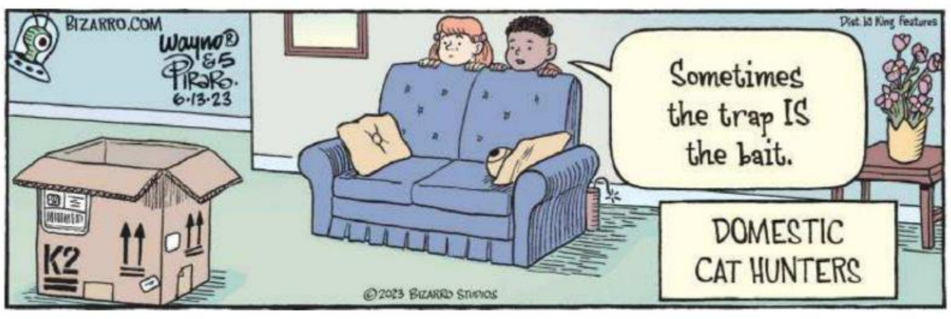
BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall


ACHOO!!
WOW...EVERYONE'S STILL A LITTLE TOUCHY!
www.Blondie.com
YOUNG MARSHALL
6-13

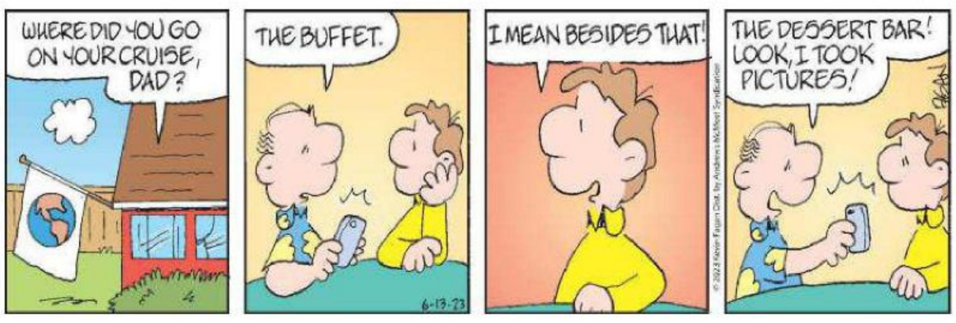
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy


I WONDER IF I SHOULD ASK MY EX-HUSBAND FOR ADVICE
HE KNOWS ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ... AS A ROMANTIC PARTNER AND AS A FRIEND
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO GIVE ME A FRANK, NO-HOLDS-BARRED OPINION NO MATTER WHAT
I ALWAYS HATED THAT ABOUT HIM
6-13-23

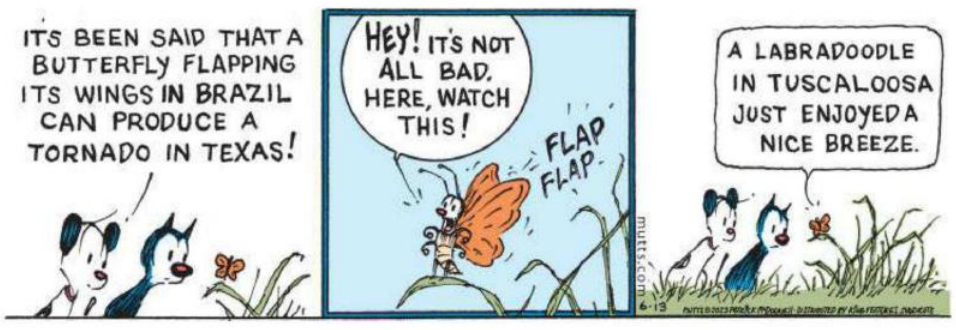
BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro


BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 6-13-23
Dist. by King Features
Sometimes the trap IS the bait.
DOMESTIC CAT HUNTERS
K2
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS

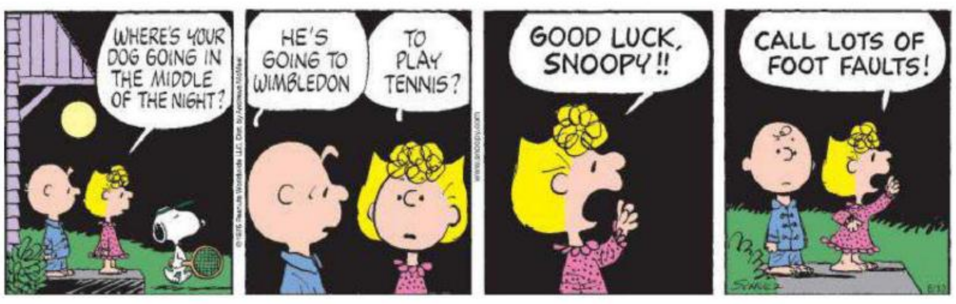
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan


WHERE DID YOU GO ON YOUR CRUISE, DAD?
THE BUFFET.
6-13-23
I MEAN BESIDES THAT!
THE DESSERT BAR! LOOK, I TOOK PICTURES!

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


IT'S BEEN SAID THAT A BUTTERFLY FLAPPING ITS WINGS IN BRAZIL CAN PRODUCE A TORNADO IN TEXAS!
HEY! IT'S NOT ALL BAD. HERE, WATCH THIS!
FLAP FLAP
mutts.com 6-13
A LABRADOODLE IN TUSCALOOSA JUST ENJOYED A NICE BREEZE.

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz


WHERE'S YOUR DOG GOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
HE'S GOING TO WIMBLEDON
TO PLAY TENNIS?
GOOD LUCK, SNOOPY!!
CALL LOTS OF FOOT FAULTS!
SCHULZ

From the heart

[**Tonys,** from E1]

lowed to be theater people. Which is to say artists were allowed be full humans — open about their dreams, their struggles and their experiences of difference.

There were speeches in support of trans and nonbinary people on a night when history was made with two awards going to nonbinary performers — Alex Newell, winning for featured actor in a musical ("Shucked"), and J. Harrison Ghee, winning for lead actor in a musical ("Some Like It Hot").

The tone, however, was never political for politics' sake. Artists spoke from their own experience, as Michael Arden (who won for his direction of the musical "Parade") bravely exemplified when he recalled being called the "F-word" as a gay youth.

Arden then reclaimed the homophobic slur, exclaiming: "Now I'm a f— with a Tony!" to rapturous applause. CBS apparently found this a bit too brave and bleeped the speech in the telecast. But the point was to communicate to all those LGBTQ+ kids watching across America that they are not alone and that their dreams not only matter but are indeed achievable with hard work, determination and a survivor's defiance.

Controversy ensued at the ceremony when actor Denée Benton presented the Excellence in Theatre Education Award from Carnegie Mellon University to Jason Zembuch Young, of South Plantation High School in Plantation, Fla. Benton referred to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as the state's "Grand Wizard," a reference to Ku Klux Klan leadership that she quickly corrected but not before the entire theater was cheering her on.

Looked at one way, the Tony Awards were everything DeSantis has been railing against in his fear-mongering messaging. But I couldn't help thinking of how many people were helped, in blue and red states alike, by hearing from artists who once were watching the Tony Awards at home, wondering if they would ever find a place for themselves in the world and be judged on the basis of their talents alone.

Photographs by Charles Sykes Invision / Associated Press

J. HARRISON GHEE delivers a heartfelt speech accepting the Tony Award for lead actor in a musical.

TOM STOPPARD, center, and members of the company of "Leopoldstadt" accept the Tony for best play.

The secret that theater people have no trouble understanding is that most human beings worry that some aspect of their identity might be disqualifying in a world openly intolerant of difference. The voice that right-wing conservative politicians want to demonize is actually the voice that is trying to say, "I see you, I hear you and I welcome you."

Once again at the Tony Awards, eloquence was achieved in the acceptance speeches. Tony winners don't waste a lot of time thanking their agents, managers and publicists. The precious airtime is reserved for more courageous personal testimony.

The absence of scripted patter cleared the way for a more authentic form of communication. Again and again, those who were being honored shared their struggles and feelings of shame not to elicit sympathy but to give others hope.

"Thank you for seeing me, Broadway," Newell said on accepting their award. "I should not be up here, as a queer, nonbinary, fat, Black baby from Massachusetts. And to anyone that thinks that they can't do it, I'm going to look you dead in your face [and tell you] that you can do anything you put your mind to."

Ghee struck a similar note in their acceptance speech: "For every trans, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming human, whoever was told you couldn't be, you couldn't be seen, this is for you."

The pervasiveness of racism was acknowledged. Suzan-Lori Parks, while accepting the Tony for the revival of her play "Topdog/Underdog," thanked her actors for "living large in a world that often doesn't want the likes of us living at all."

But the power of unconditional love was a theme of the night. Whether they grew up queer, nonbinary or trans, whether they experienced oppression stemming from gender, race, ability or size, those who were honored attested to the role early encouragement played in allowing them to realize what otherwise would have been impossible.

A child affirmed has an enhanced capacity for generosity. "My mother raised me to understand that my gifts that God gave me were not about me," Ghee said. "To use them to be effective in the world, to help somebody else's journey. So thank you for teaching me how to live, how to love, how to give."

These lines echoed sentiments expressed by director and choreographer Jerry Mitchell, who in his acceptance of the Isabelle Stevenson Award for his philanthropic efforts in raising money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS quoted the playwright George Bernard Shaw: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community. And as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live."

These words of a brilliant dramatist were not just moving to hear spoken by a 21st century director and choreographer committed to making a difference. They were a reminder of what writers uniquely offer us.

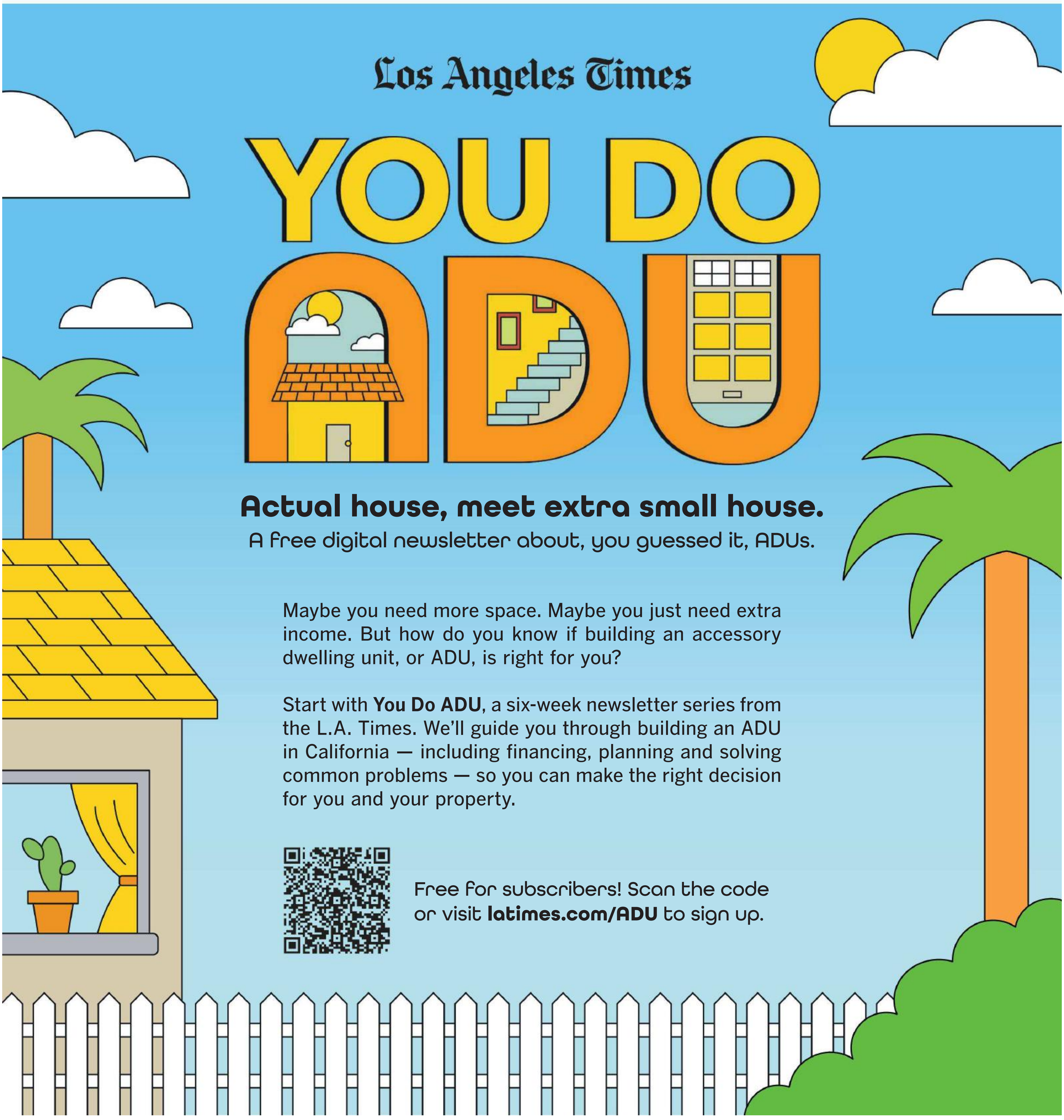
Everyone in attendance at the Tony Awards was there in part because of the space that was created by the words of a playwright or a lyricist. Words that mapped out another way of living in the world. A way of greater empathy and connection. An understanding that "no one is alone," as Stephen Sondheim indelibly put it in a lyric from "Into the Woods," one of the year's most successful revivals.

Writers were the heart and soul of this Broadway season, which was notable not only for the rich array of dramas but also for the complexity and literary distinction of the musicals. Alfred Uhry and Jason Robert Brown's "Parade," about the trial and antisemitic lynching of Leo Frank, won for musical revival in what was one of the year's most competitive categories. The other nominees — "Into the Woods," "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" and "Camelot" — revealed the limitless scope of what's possible when text meets music.

"Kimberly Akimbo," which David Lindsay-Abaire and composer Jeanine Tesori adapted from Lindsay-Abaire's 2001 play, won for best musical. The show, about a teenage girl with a medical condition that prematurely ages her, is all about finding the strength to accept and appreciate the only life you have — a idea that Lindsay-Abaire implicitly reiterated in tracing his own path as a writer when accepting the award for best book of a musical.

In his acceptance speech for best play, Stoppard succinctly articulated the reason there was so much solidarity with the striking screenwriters. Describing himself as someone "teeming with emotions that a chatbot wouldn't begin to understand," he lamented the way theater writers have been "progressively devalued on the food chain."

Without a script, he said, we're all basically "flummoxed." If this wasn't the case at this year's Tony Awards, it was because all in the room were beneficiaries of a long noble line of dramatic poets.



Los Angeles Times

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THE ENVELOPE

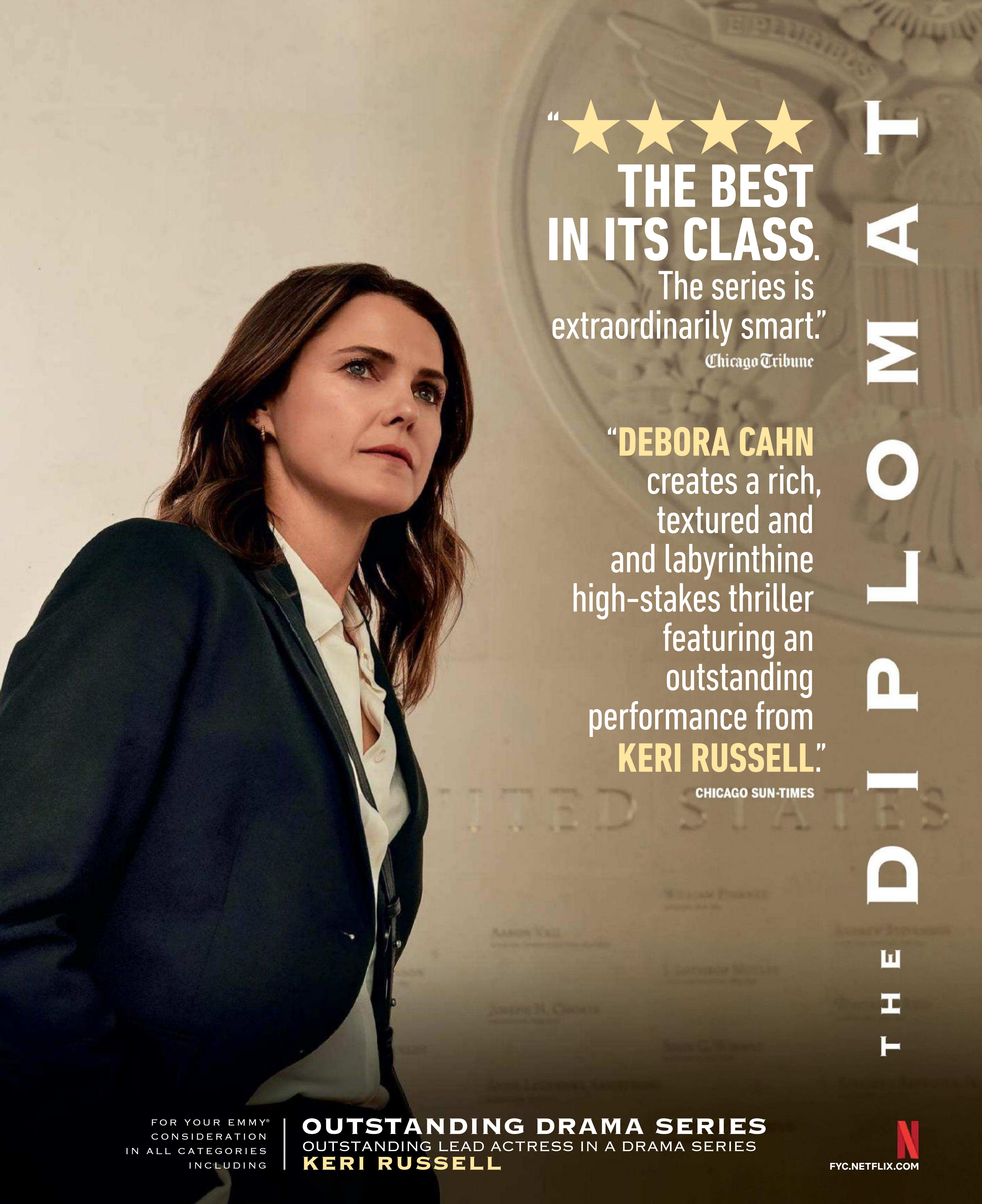
A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE
Los Angeles Times

JUNE 13, 2023
VOL. CXLII, NO. 192

DRAMA

LIFETIME *of a* ROLE

THEIR PASSION CREATES THE SPARK THAT ENDURES.



THE DIPLOMAT

"★★★★ THE BEST IN ITS CLASS. The series is extraordinarily smart."

Chicago Tribune

"**DEBORA CAHN** creates a rich, textured and and labyrinthine high-stakes thriller featuring an outstanding performance from **KERI RUSSELL**."

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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DRAMA

What’s Inside 06.13.23

Hanging on to the edge

Elizabeth Debicki, Diana on “The Crown,” keeps fear in her acting toolkit.
P. 6

Ambition in the mirror

“Becka is so close to my heart,” Eve Hewson says of her “Bad Sisters” role.
P. 14

Being ‘Bumpy’

Forest Whitaker understands the pull of mob life for the kingpin he portrays.
P. 16

Back from mom duty

Jennifer Garner’s action chops come in handy in “The Last Thing He Told Me.”
P. 18

ON THE COVER: Photo of Patrick Stewart, Bella Ramsey, Diego Luna, Christina Ricci, Helen Mirren and Jeremy Strong by Alex Harper / For The Times

ON THIS PAGE: Photo of Jennifer Garner by Evan Mulling / For The Times

Drama Roundtable

Six actors discuss their roles: some intense, others now comfortable.
P. 22

Diplomatic immunity

“No one likes the perfect person,” Keri Russell says of her series’ character.
P. 30

The stuff of nightmares

The “Yellowjackets” “teens” discuss how the second season has affected them.
P. 32

‘Dragon’ slayer

Matt Smith uses Daemon Targaryen’s sensitivity to get more out of the role.
P. 38

Gold Standard

Glenn Whipp gives us the Emmys comedy power rankings. **P. 40**

FOR THE RECORD: A caption accompanying a June 1 article about the freshman series “Extraordinary” identified a pictured actor as Mairéad Tyers. The actor was Sofia Oxenham.

BuzzMeter

(Our panel of Emmy experts share their picks.)

LORRAINE ALI
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"The Patient"
"Beef"
"Black Bird"
"Tiny Beautiful Things"
"Love & Death"

Some of the year's best limited series were about unhinged psychopaths, vicious killers and folks with severe anger-control issues — "The Patient," "Black Bird," "Dead Ringers" and "Love & Death" — and there's more collective rage in "Beef" than the downtown interchange at rush hour.

KRISTEN BALDWIN
ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"Mrs. Davis"
"Beef"
"The Patient"
"Five Days at Memorial"
"Black Bird"

Last year, three of the five nominees were lackluster true-crime stories ("Inventing Anna," "The Dropout," "Pam & Tommy"). For 2023, there are so many genuinely original works: Netflix's "Beef" (a lock); Peacock's "Mrs. Davis" (a deserving long shot); FX on Hulu's "The Patient" (a chilling Domhnall Gleeson).

TRACY BROWN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"This Is Going to Hurt"
"Black Bird"
"The Patient"
"Daisy Jones & the Six"
"Fleishman Is in Trouble"

Television has been increasingly unflinching in its depiction of realistic childbirth lately, and "This Is Going to Hurt" is particularly relentless in showing how messy and brutal it can get in an underfunded public OB/GYN ward. But the stellar cast really made this show a must-see (just maybe not all at once).

PHOTO BY ANDREW COOPER / NETFLIX

'BEEF'

LIMITED SERIES

ROUND 1 OF BUZZMETER — your buzzy viewing guide — rolls along with our TV-junkie journalists mixing what they suspect will get Emmy attention with what they believe *should*. "Beef" (with Ali Wong and Steven Yeun, above), "Black Bird" and "The Patient" got the most points in the first round of ranked voting in the limited-series race, and a fair amount of praise. But the passionate endorsements were definitely spread around for the likes of "Mrs. Davis" ("a very deserving dark horse," says Kristen Baldwin), "This Is Going to Hurt" ("relentless"; "a must-see," says Tracy Brown), "The Best Man" ("should be talked about more," says Trey Mangum) and "A Small Light" ("stirring … suspenseful and moving," says Matt Roush). You can find all our picks — and make your own — at *latimes.com/buzzmeter*.

TREY MANGUM
SHADOW AND ACT

"The Best Man: The Final Chapters"
"Beef"
"From Scratch"
"Five Days at Memorial"
"Daisy Jones & the Six"

"The Best Man: The Final Chapters" brought a classic Black film franchise to a close with a limited series, and it should be talked about more among critics for what it accomplished. And if there is one series that kept my attention weeks after I viewed it, it was definitely "Beef."

MATT ROUSH
TV GUIDE

"Black Bird"
"Beef"
"A Small Light"
"The Patient"
"George & Tammy"

The sleeper in this category is National Geographic's stirring "A Small Light," a suspenseful and moving drama about the woman who helped hide Anne Frank and her family during the Nazi occupation. Apple's riveting prison drama "Black Bird" was much showier and will likely be the miniseries to beat.

GLENN WHIPP
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A Small Light"
"Black Bird"
"Beef"
"Dead Ringers"
"George & Tammy"

NatGeo's "A Small Light" takes history we thought we thoroughly knew — the WWII story of Anne Frank — and shows it from a different perspective, that of Miep Gies, one of the Dutch civilians who helped hide the Frank family from the Nazis. It's a moving portrait of courage and resolve.

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AWARDSWATCH

"ELISABETH MOSS GIVES A TOUR DE FORCE.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO BE HYPNOTIZED BY HER WORK."

THE PLAYLIST

Official Selection
tiff
Toronto International Film Festival 2022

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

hulu

THE CONTENDERS

Fear keeps a good grip on her

You don't want to lose that edge, says 'The Crown's' Elizabeth Debicki, who finds it vital to her work.

By Robert Abele

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH WEINBERG / FOR THE TIMES

AUSTRALIAN actor Elizabeth Debicki has now lived in England long enough to know how she likes her tea, a pot of which she's letting steep in front of her.

"Leave the bag in for as long as humanly possible," she says. "I want it to hit me like coffee, but I want it to still be tea."

That's a pretty apt metaphor for her lauded turn as Princess Diana Spencer in the fifth season of "The Crown": an intense portrait of exiled loneliness inside an uncanny rendering of that gossamer lilt of a voice, warmly teasing charm, and mannerisms. After two years playing her — with Season 6 streaming later this year — Debicki realized letting go of so demanding a role wouldn't be simple.

"At a certain stage toward the end of it, it dawned on me that I'd have to very consciously unpeel the layers," says Debicki, who credits having dancer parents, and her own ballet training, with a very body-conscious approach to acting. She also acknowledges how much her osteopath has helped her with the factory-reset part of the gig.

"The other day, he was like, 'Can we go back to your [own] body?' " she says with a gentle laugh. "The actor wants the body to be a neutral canvas so you can become somebody else, how they want to move."

For Debicki, Diana's physicality was about so much more than the recognizable head-drop. "Everyone and their mother does that," Debicki says. "My plumber does it; it's so incessant!" Rather, she sought a deeper understanding of Diana's presence in any given scene. "She was quite tall, but there's also this deep humility that seemed to be emanating out, not wanting to take up too much space, knowing that you inherently take up so much space because you're so luminous. I think it was always a slight kind of deferral." She adds, "Bodies have maps of all the things they've endured: the knocks, the highlights, the beliefs they've inherited."

When Debicki was still relatively industry-fresh, and "The Crown" was an instant hit, she'd tried out for a small Season 2 role that she didn't get — "I was physically wrong for it" — but which led to whispers that the production would be interested in her for Diana down the road. Emma Corrin's Season 4 casting as the princess-to-be briefly spurred a "you win some, you lose some" feeling, she notes, until early 2020, when the offer came to be the 1990s Diana. A pandemic-delayed start gave Debicki a wealth of time to prepare.

"I was kind of feeling my way through it, groping through the darkness," she recalls. "I let myself swim in it in a not particularly conscious way, thinking, then I'll just pop up, and whatever sticks will stick, whatever's triggered something for me. Because there's so much information." She pauses. "A lot of fear and doubt was involved, as well."

When Debicki thinks about the "great teachers" she's worked with in her blazing career — Cate Blanchett, Viola Davis, Isabelle Huppert — she understands why the descriptor "fearless" is often applied to them. But she believes they'd all admit, as Debicki does, that fear is important. "You never want to lose your fear," she says. "It's like the edge of things, another way of saying 'awareness.' I wouldn't know how to act without it. Adrenaline's very useful."

Especially when everything about a role reminds you she's "very imprinted on our collective consciousness." She took her time studying footage, placing a premium on moments when Diana is with her children, "where there's no public-facing mask," she notes, "and she just seems happy." She also sought snippets with humor, which prepared her for the endearing sparkle she gives scenes when Diana is charming Mohamed Fayed (Salim Daw) at the race track, or flirting with heart surgeon Dr. Khan (Humayun Saeed). "She's really funny, with, like, amazing comic timing," Debicki says. "You get to see right into the joyful human being."

Her scenes of marital discord with Dominic West's Prince of Wales, meanwhile, she likened to doing "an Ibsen play." She says, "He's very funny and dry, deeply self-deprecating, so he's a joy to work with on really heavy material. He and I could find a way to come up above the surface and take a breath before going back in. We laughed a lot, but we've had bunches of scenes where it's so sad and we're crying so much."

Ultimately, Debicki found herself thinking a lot about the freedom and honesty Diana struggled to navigate as a hounded figure. "It becomes a privacy question," she says. "Privacy is the wellspring of sanity. You need it in order to be able to conduct life in a way that's satisfying to you. And the media, the way they were, it was this complex give and take, but when there was too much take, the implosions are just felt everywhere."

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THE CONTENDERS

Who's got the power now?

Toni Collette stars in a 'relevant' science-fiction series that turns the tables on men, with liberation, revolution and chaos to follow.

By Lisa Rosen

TONI COLLETTE has been on a tear. Touching down in Los Angeles briefly to discuss her role in "The Power," she has been doing little other than "working, traveling with my kids and being perpetually jet-lagged everywhere." She hopes at some point to find the time to finish watching the first season of the Prime Video sci-fi series, in which she stars as Seattle Mayor Margot Cleary-Lopez, and to read the novel by Naomi Alderman upon which it's based. "It says so much that's so relevant that I'm eager to read it."

"The Power" posits the simplest of questions: What if women didn't ever have to be afraid anymore? As Margot says in the opening moments, "We never dared to imagine it. A world that was built for us." It starts with a spark, created from an organ called a skein that previously lay dormant, that gives girls, and then women, the power to electrocute at will. With that power comes liberation and vengeance, revolution and chaos.

"The Power" branches out in stories around the world, as "electric organ discharge," allows females to rise up against their oppressors everywhere from Saudi Arabia to Alabama. In Seattle, Margot fights for the rights of the newly empowered, against the efforts of a hostile governor (Josh Charles) to remove them from society. The fight finds its way to her own home as well, as her husband, Rob (John Leguizamo), reels from her political machinations, and son Matty (Gerrison Machado) finds solace with online conspiracy theorists. Her daughter Jos (Auli'i Cravalho) passes the power to her but has trouble handling it herself.

Collette is direct and straightforward, eager to discuss "The Power's" themes. "It's really interesting how in the show and in life, somebody else coming into their power becomes a threat to particularly men and their power. But surely if we empower each other, it's a better world. It's not about domination, it's about balance."

The discussion of women's bodily autonomy is eerily timely. During a political debate, Margot notes that since women gained the power, reported rapes have gone down 75% and domestic violence 61%. As Collette notes, "The idea of that ideal, of that actually being possible, is really contributing to the conversation. Even though it's a fantasy sci-fi, it is so grounded in reality, it's incredible timing." She's found discussions about the show "contentious and exciting. Everyone's really passionate about it."

That's why she took the job, even though she had almost no time for it. Most of the series had been shot long before Collette came on. Margot was initially played by Leslie Mann, but the filming schedule was interrupted by the pandemic, and Mann couldn't return to shoot pickups, so the role was recast. Collette was filming "Mafia Mamma" in Rome when she received the offer last summer and was shown a rough cut of the first few episodes. "That never happens. And it was really impressive. That was a big piece of the puzzle that persuaded me to do it."

So right after going into prep on yet another project, Bong Joon Ho's "Mickey 17," Collette headed to Vancouver for five weeks to shoot her part of eight episodes. "I felt so welcomed and very supported, but it was like shooting several movies in five weeks," she recalls. "It was bonkers, like driving a bus full of people who are depending on you to get there, and the steering wheel keeps coming out."

She used that overwhelmed feeling to relate to her character. "I was like, 'Well, this is how Margot would feel, so run with it, girl.' I don't need to feel like I've got it all, I just need to feel like I managed to bring truth to each moment."

"The Power" is part sprawling epic, part intimate drama. And in Margot's case, both. "Toni has to hold a lot of the center of the show together," executive producer Naomi De Pear notes, by phone from London. "She's the character that most explicitly talks about the themes of the show, and that's a big responsibility. Also to have to hold that authority of being a mayor, and also be the sci-fi lens of the show, the woman who's going, 'Hang on a minute, I think I'm onto something here, what's going on?' So she had to wear a lot of hats, and she wears them all so brilliantly. She ties it all together and makes it all feel raw and real."

Collette says that the cast and crew held her together, shouting out Edwina Findley, who plays Margot's aide Helen. "She was my wing woman; I did a lot of grabbing her arm." And she calls Leguizamo "so open and present and fun, and he's frank and he'll speak his mind. I loved, loved, loved working with him."

As for the finale, in which Margot lights up a debate with the governor, "It was an accident. He was really provoking her," she says, laughing.

What happens when you go from fighting the power to being the power? If the show gets a second season, it's certain to ramp up the voltage.

THE QUOTE

BRIAN COX

ACTOR
'SUCCESSION'

What series past or present would you have liked to be on, and what would your role have been?

"Maverick." I just loved the idea, that whole show with James Garner, a gambling man, and this was early television for me, but it was compelling. There was more than one Maverick — there was also Roger Moore and Jack Kelly, other Mavericks, the whole Maverick family thing, which I was wedded to. I would have liked to have been one of the Maverick [family]; gamblers have good clothes in westerns.

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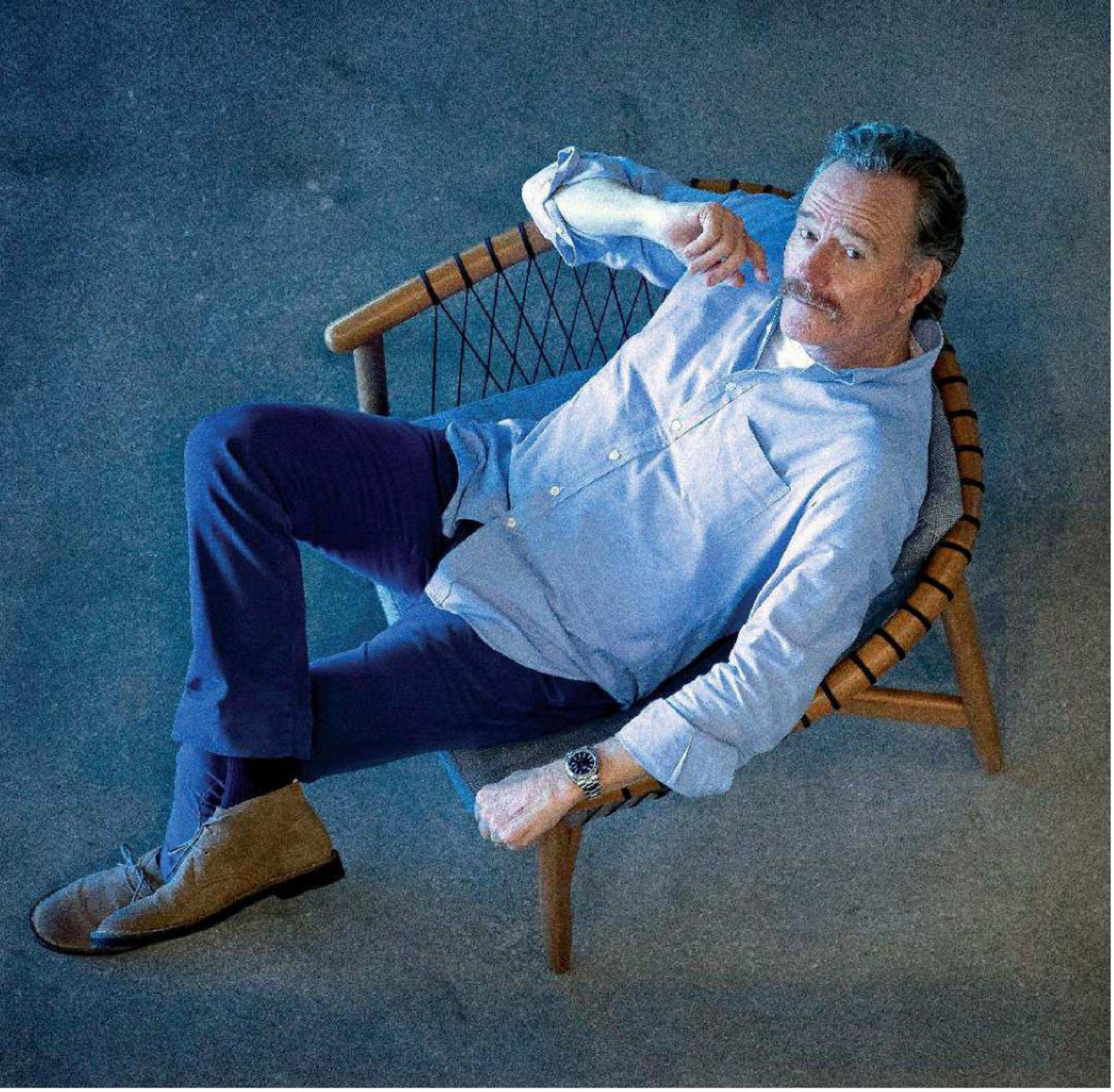

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THE CONTENDERS

Into the depths ... then a rebirth

'Your Honor' Season 1 found Bryan Cranston's judge suicidal. Season 2: a reach for humanity.

By Michael Ordoña

YOUR HONOR” could have been complete after Season 1's horrific full-circle finale, in which the “honorable” protagonist's entire impetus for his long journey into hell — protecting his son — leads to the young man accidentally being killed. Ending there, the show would have been about karmic retribution. Instead, the second season transformed into a story of (some measure of) redemption. Even rebirth.

“If the first season was more ‘King Lear,’ then this season is more ‘Hamlet,’ where he truly doesn't want to live, in the beginning,” says star and executive producer Bryan Cranston, who plays erstwhile respected New Orleans judge Michael Desiato in the Showtime drama. “By the end of the season, hopefully without being too on the nose, we wanted to give the audience the sense that Michael doesn't want to die anymore. That he [eventually becomes] reconnected to humanity enough to shift into, at least, neutral.”

As the series begins, Michael is forced to make life-or-death decisions on the fly when his son, Adam (Hunter Doohan), inadvertently kills a motorcyclist in a traffic accident. When the victim turns out to be the son of a ruthless underworld figure, Michael moves to cover up Adam's involvement — triggering a lethal and ever-widening butterfly effect that destroys several lives, including Adam's, Michael's and an entire innocent family's.

Cranston says. “I've asked [people], ‘What would *you* do to save the life of your child?’ And the answer is, ‘Anything.’ The next question: ‘Would you knowingly become a criminal?’ ‘Yes, I would.’ Then the third question: ‘Would you allow an innocent person harm or death?’ And that stops people cold. And that's where we are with the show.”

The pitch-dark drama's first season finds Michael doing things he never could have imagined in order to maintain the rickety framework of lies keeping his son alive.

His actions are as grand as subverting a trial to keep the mobster's other son out of prison and as small-but-despicable as blurting out to the woman he's dating he loves her simply to distract her from witnessing one of the cogs of his plan. Then, after his own son becomes collateral damage, Season 2 finds the devastated former judge in prison, not talking or eating — just wasting away.

The actor says that though creator Peter Moffat was unable to return as showrunner for the second season due to family issues, they had intended a two-season arc from the start. The second season was to depict Michael's long, slow crawl back to life.

“I wanted to incrementally, subtly show there are things that are connected to being human, that he forgot about or he stumbles upon until we know [he's no longer suicidal], without having him say, ‘Hey, I think I'd like to live now.’ ”

Cranston and Season 2 showrunner Joey Hartstone agreed Michael should be “a man who wants to die; he's not motivated to do anything.” Indeed, it's only threats to those he cares about that force him out of his death spiral. In taking action, he inches toward redemption.

“It was a tribute to Showtime to allow that second season to” be so dark and to take its time, Cranston says. “I reminded them where this is going. It's not going to be a first episode ‘Michael Desiato gets his mojo back, overcomes his anguish and his deep despair over the loss of his son, and here he is, back!’ No, it's the entire season.

“I wanted to be true to that. I think if I lost my child, it would change me as a human being. I could not live the same way. My relationship with my wife would be challenging and different, and with friends ... I just can't imagine it being anything like what it was.”

True, he finds a way to be useful in the end, using his expertise to save one of the victims of his collateral damage, but it's the carefully planned details that really tell the story of Michael Desiato in Season 2.

The key vehicle of rebirth is a near-literal one: the revelation that Adam had conceived a child with his girlfriend before he died. Michael doesn't feel worthy of connecting with the baby and his mother. He can't even bring himself to pet his beloved dog.

Over the course of many episodes, he comes to hold the baby, even feed it. The increments are as small as him giving his dog a spoonful of peanut butter.

“Where do I put the spoon to put the lid back on? I just shove it in my mouth. And I take a moment: ‘Oh, my God. Peanut butter.’ It's not a big thing, but it's those little things — the little joyous moments that we take for granted — seeing a dog, seeing a baby, tasting peanut butter. These little things no one would write about, but if we see glimpses of these with him, then we know that he is, even involuntarily, reconnecting to humanity.”

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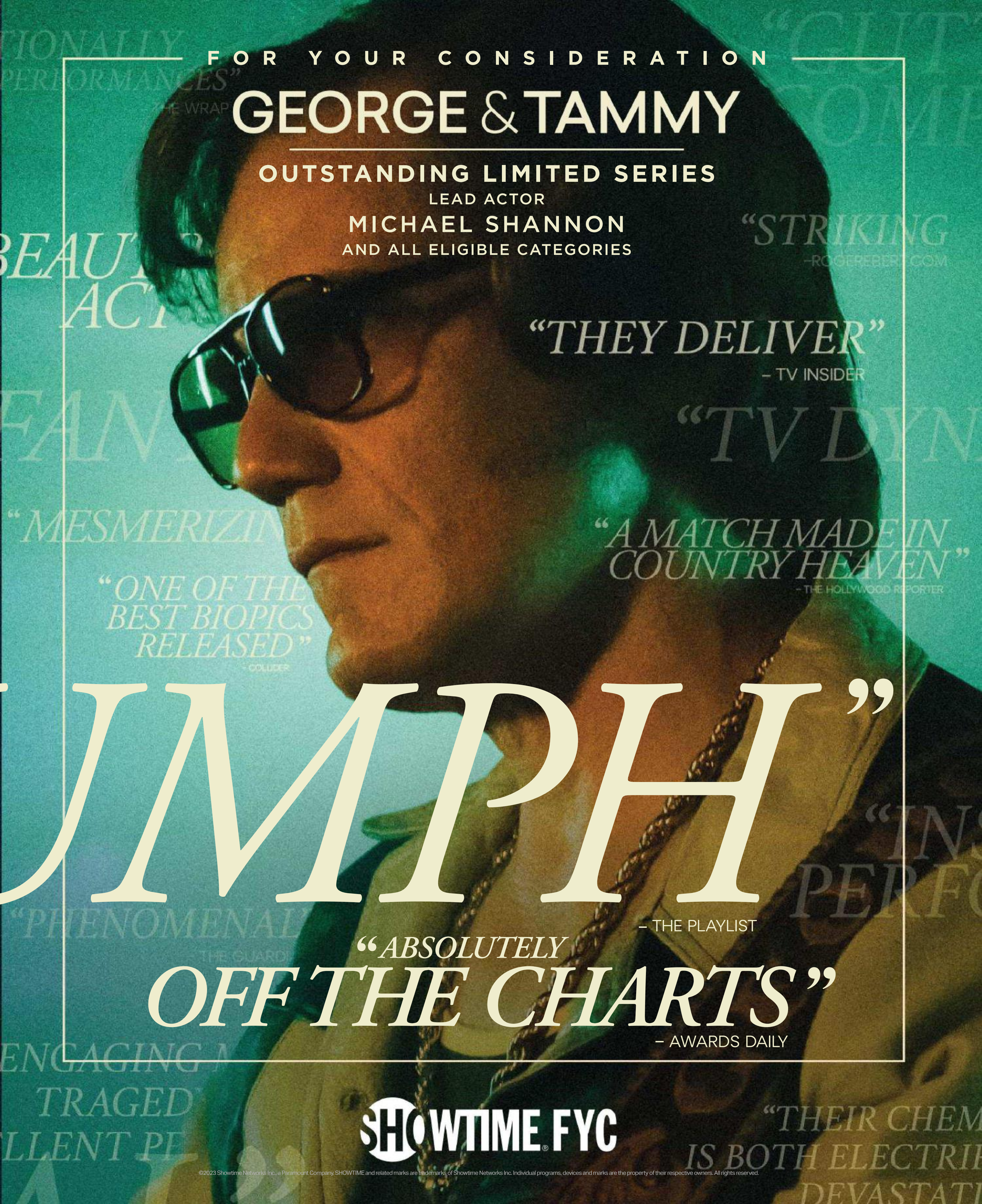
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Ambition has a familial ring

Eve Hewson sees herself in her 'Bad Sisters' character and is used to being surrounded by Beckas.

By Randee Dawn

WANT TO KNOW who Eve Hewson is? Watch her as the ambitious Becka in the darkly hilarious "Bad Sisters" on Apple TV+. "Becka is so close to my heart," she says. "I was a girl like her." Hewson's a standout in the series, about five Irish sisters, four of whom decide they must kill the other one's sadistic husband. The series has been picked up for Season 2.

But this is far from Hewson's first rodeo: At 31, she's also played roles in such series as "The Luminaries" and "The Knick." Still, whenever newcomers discover Memphis Eve Sunny Day Hewson, they're often delighted to learn one more thing about her: Her dad is U2 singer Bono.

Hewson chatted with The Envelope via Zoom from Cape Cod, where she's shooting "The Perfect Couple," and talked about being her own woman, nepo babies — and getting therapy.

You must be thrilled, with "Bad Sisters" picking up a BAFTA series award in May.

What an achievement! It's so great to see [show creator-star] Sharon [Horgan] get her moment, because I know what she put into this show and how hard she worked every day — seeing her between takes, writing and writing, even in the hair and makeup trailer, not sleeping. It made me have a little cry.

Did you see yourself in Becka?

More than any part I've ever played. So I thought it would be easier [to play], but it ended up being quite demanding. Most characters I play are far from me, and it's like putting on a hat. But I grew up with girls like Becka. I was raised by women like her. It was a big part of my soul. But the process of being that open and vulnerable actually became more difficult, because I felt I was giving so much of myself away that I felt drained. By the end, I was exhausted by it.

TRIBAL TIES: Sharon Horgan, from left, Hewson, Eva Birthistle and Sarah Greene in "Bad Sisters."

What was it like to have such a female-forward cast to be performing alongside?

I spent most of my 20s being pretty much the only girl on a set with loads of men. I think they call it the "Smurfette syndrome." This was a completely different experience. Because we were all playing sisters, we all naturally fell into a comfortable place with each other. Sometimes, if you're the only girl in a cast with a bunch of men, there's a different way of holding yourself. When you're around people like you — girls like you — you can let your guard down a little bit more. That's really nice, to feel a different energy when you're walking onto a set.

What inspired you to get into acting in the first place?

I had a tutor, because I was terrible in school, and she was a filmmaker who tutored on the side. She ended up making a short film, and I worked on that as a production assistant. She ended up writing me a part in one of her movies [2008's "The 27 Club"], and I got to go to North Carolina for three weeks. I fell madly, deeply, completely in love with the whole shebang because of [my tutor, Erica Dunton]; she completely opened up my world. It was a life-changing relationship.

You attended film school in New York City, where you lived in your own apartment off campus. Do you feel like you got to be a "regular" student, without everyone focusing on your famous dad?

What's awkward about being from my family is the first few weeks of anything new. There's that awkward time when people try to find your Instagram or Facebook and all of a sudden they figure out about your family, and it's an awful conversation. People talk about you. But then it goes away, because people get bored about things quickly. So, yeah, I had a great experience. Drama school was a safe environment where I could try things and embarrass myself and try it again.

You've made a real effort to separate your career from the famous part of your family, so I imagine the whole "nepo baby" conversation that took over the Internet recently must have been pretty obnoxious.

I just thought it was funny. Most of my friends who were on that list thought it was funny. I was surprised by how many people who weren't nepo babies were like, "You go, girl!"

If you hadn't gone into acting, what would you be doing now?

Psychologist. I'm very interested in human beings and why we are the way we are. Acting is just a performing version of that. When I was at NYU, I studied psychology as well. I'm fascinated by human beings and characters and stories.

What's the best piece of advice you ever got about acting?

"Go to therapy."

And did you?

Hell, yeah. You can give advice and you can get advice, but you have to learn on your feet. Through trial and error. Everyone's going to have mistakes. You're going to embarrass yourself. You're going to be really proud of yourself. You just have to learn to ride the wave.

SERIES PHOTO FROM APPLE TV+

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THE CONTENDERS

Altruist/killer? It's complicated

Forest Whitaker explains how the real-life drug kingpin in 'Godfather of Harlem' — family man, poet — was a victim too.

By Hugh Hart

A BLACK TEENAGER gets shot dead by a policeman, opioids wreak havoc and the U.S. government flounders in the face of a divided nation. The year is 1964. The show is "Godfather of Harlem." And the title character mired in this depressingly familiar scenario, portrayed by Forest Whitaker, pushes a man off the roof of a building at the end of the season, sees him splatter on the sidewalk, then goes home in his tailored suit to an immaculately furnished townhouse in time for dinner with his wife.

It's just another day at the office for Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson, the real-life complicated criminal who once ruled Harlem's heroin trade. Whitaker, speaking from his New York City home, says, "Here's a guy who was a chess player, a poet, a philanthropist, a murderer and a drug dealer. We knew from the start he was complex, especially because we chose a time in Bumpy's life that reflects his day and our day as well."

The Epix/MGM+ series represents a deep, dark dive for Whitaker, who's been imagining himself as the real-life narcotics kingpin since 2018, when producers Markuann Smith and Jim Acheson first pitched him on bringing Bumpy Johnson to the small screen. "I told them I'd be interested in producing and possibly acting in the show depending on if it could serve as a prism to society today and reflect where we are right now through the characters and their world," Whitaker says. "The draft script from Chris Brancato and Paul Eckstein did that, so I decided to act in the project."

Season 3 begins in the wake of Harlem riots following the death of 15-year-old James Powell at the hands of an off-duty police officer. "Bumpy saw all his dreams go up in smoke in the riots, and now he's left with nothing," Whitaker says. "He gets thrown into a different world with the Cuban Mafia, the CIA, the FBI and the five [Mafia] families. It's a lot to navigate as an actor, because Bumpy has to change within this environment in order to succeed."

As an actor, Whitaker has successfully changed his own persona many times, dating to his 1986 scene-stealing turn opposite Paul Newman in "The Color of Money." Additional to dozens of fictional characters, he portrayed a couple of real-life figures to thrilling effect. As jazz great Charlie Parker in Clint Eastwood's 1988 biopic "Bird," Whitaker learned to play saxophone and sometimes, he says, considered each note to be a different word as part of his character's personal expression. In 2007 he won an Oscar for playing Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland." For that role, Whitaker studied Barbet Schroeder's documentary about Amin and learned Swahili.

"When you create a real character, you have an arrow that points you to things you have to re-create," he says. "It's a different process for each character, but in some ways, it's the same. Slowly, slowly, a voice starts to happen. The way you stand, the way you growl, the way internal tension makes your voice more tense — it all starts to take hold of you and the character starts to form. But it was different for Bumpy."

Johnson had been mythologized in numerous movies, including "Hoodlum," starring Laurence Fishburne, and "American Gangster," featuring Denzel Washington as the gangster's successor. But when it came to original source material, Forest encountered a dearth of visual references. "Bumpy didn't like his photograph being taken," Whitaker explains. "He'd been a criminal from the 1930s through the late '60s, and there's only,

PHOTO BY MICHAEL NAGLE / FOR THE TIMES

like, four photographs of him."

To glean insights about the publicity-shy gangster, Whitaker spent time with Johnson's elderly driver and an enforcer named Junie Byrd. "The stories these guys told me, Bumpy was not afraid to get his hands dirty. If somebody needed to be killed, he was willing to take that on."

Johnson must contend with ugly competition from the Mafia, including crime boss Vincent D'Onofrio's "Chin" Gigante and Joe Colombo (Michael Raymond-James). Even as he's fending off the mob, Johnson's wife, Mayme (Ilfenesh Hadera), pressures him to quit the business altogether. That's not going to happen, Whitaker says. "Joe Colombo makes him a good offer [to get out], but Bumpy refuses the deal. He says, 'When I leave these blocks, I'm treated like every other Black person, subjugated and humiliated. Here in Harlem, I have power.' Bumpy can't give that up."

Unlike his Bumpy Johnson, who spits out his lines with dagger-like velocity, Whitaker speaks softly, pausing periodically to gather his thoughts. "By Season 3," he murmurs, "Bumpy's feeling tremendous frustration. It's like he's banging his head against the wall wanting to scream, feeling at times like a caged animal." Johnson's legendary temper fueled considerable violence, especially when a CIA operative forcibly injected his daughter Elise (Antoinette Crowe-Legacy) with heroin.

"That's truly war," Whitaker notes. "I have four kids, and their protection has always been a big goal in my life. If somebody were to do something like that to my daughter — incomprehensible. And I know people whose kids have been harmed by drugs. You feel weak, helpless. Bumpy's outraged, but he's also afraid of not being able to protect his daughters. I understand that from the bottom up."

Although rage drives much of Johnson's behavior, Whitaker also reveals the gangster at his most vulnerable. During the season finale, Bumpy Johnson tearfully reckons with the assassination of his old friend and mentor Malcolm X. On the set that day, Whitaker recalls, "I found a quiet space. Dug up some emotional memories and thoughts. The scene was shot in a real morgue, so when I walked into the room, there he is on the table, a dead prince. It was quite a difficult scene to do, taking in this man who, for Bumpy, represented the freedom to stand tall and fight for what you believe in. There he is lying on a cold slab."

For a moment, it looks as if Johnson might have an epiphany and find some form of redemption. After all, Whitaker observes, "Malcolm X had hoped to convert Bumpy to being a good citizen inside of the community. He wanted Bumpy to leave behind his darker ways. But ultimately, [he goes] back to his reserve, being a criminal and saying: 'I'm going to avenge this. I'm going to take action.' "

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL DUNBABIN

WHO'S COUNTING

ABOVE GRADE LEVEL

"Abbott Elementary" creator-star **Quinta Brunson** is a favorite for a comedy lead actress Emmy — continuing her remarkable awards roll over the last year. — **By Carla Meyer**

42

years since "The Jeffersons" star Isabel Sanford became the first and only Black performer to win for lead actress in a comedy series, a category in which women of color have been egregiously overlooked.

2008, 2019

Fey and Waller-Bridge both won comedy lead acting, writing and outstanding series statuettes in a single year.

3

Last year, Brunson became the first Black woman nominated in three comedy series categories — acting, writing and series (as an executive producer) — in the same year.

1

She won the writing Emmy, becoming just the second Black woman to do so, after Lena Waithe won in 2017 for HBO's "Master of None."

10+

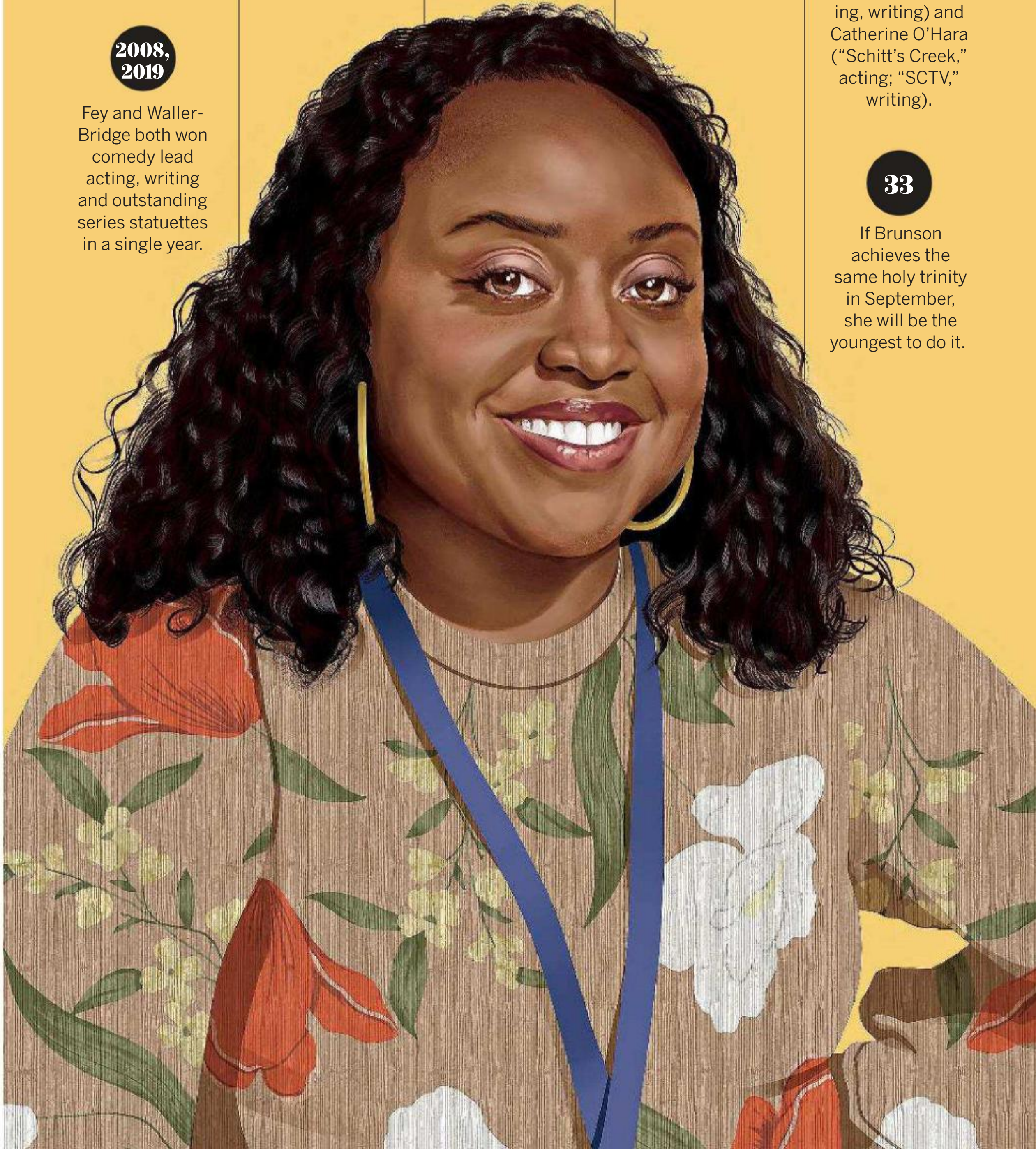
Since then, Brunson has won a Golden Globe, NAACP Image Award, and Independent Spirit Award for lead actress, among many other honors, including a Screen Actors Guild ensemble award.

4

She could become the fourth comedy lead actress winner to also have won a writing Emmy, after Tina Fey ("30 Rock," acting, writing; "SNL," writing), Phoebe Waller-Bridge ("Fleabag," acting, writing) and Catherine O'Hara ("Schitt's Creek," acting; "SCTV," writing).

33

If Brunson achieves the same holy trinity in September, she will be the youngest to do it.



THE CONTENDERS

Mom's back in action

Knowing she had the required discipline and physical skills, Jennifer Garner returns to the game with 'The Last Thing He Told Me.' **By Margy Rochlin**

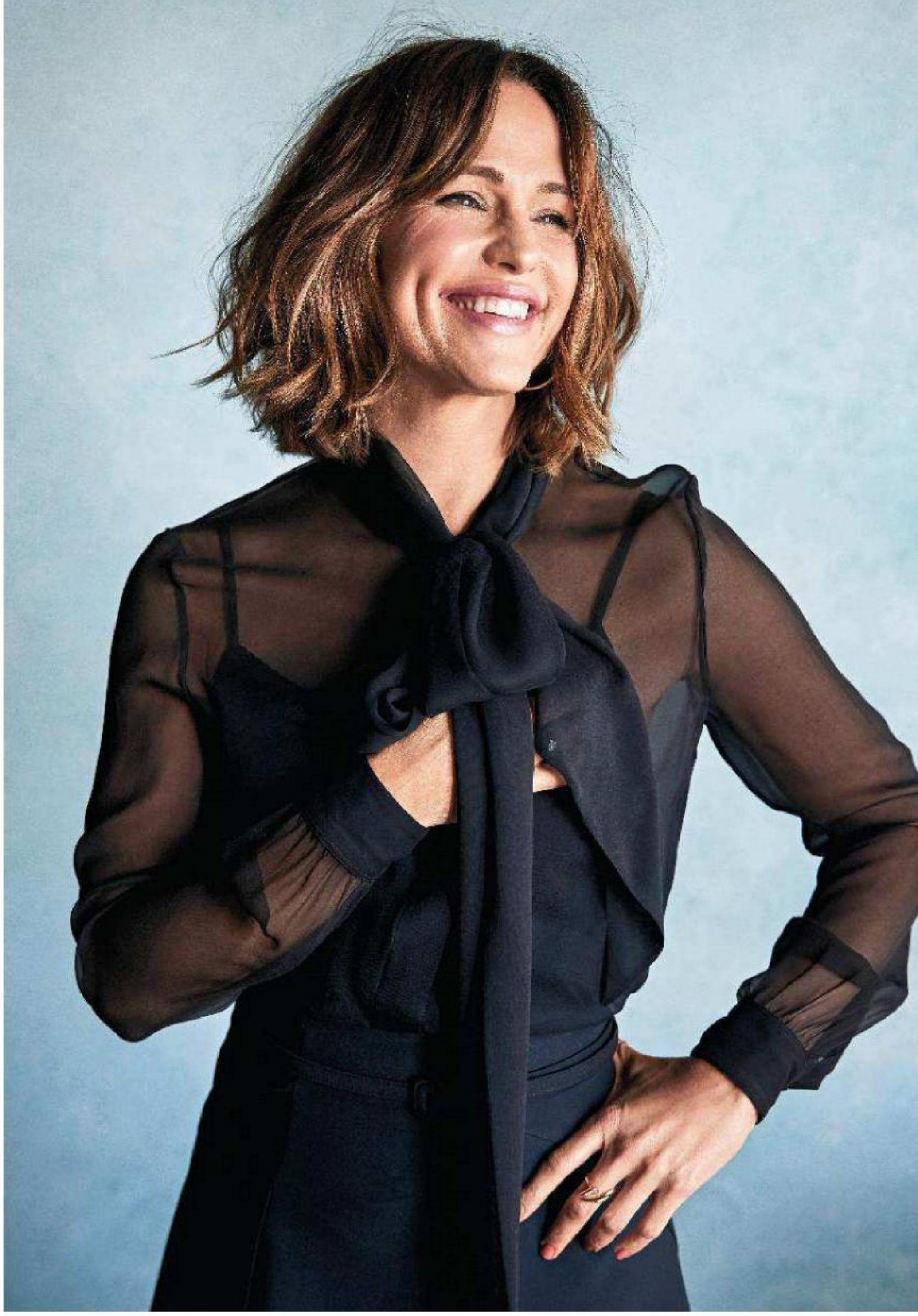


PHOTO BY EVAN MULLING / FOR THE TIMES

JENNIFER GARNER might be famous for her air of easy affability. But she felt she could nail the role of Hannah, a skilled woodcrafter whose new husband (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) mysteriously vanishes, leaving her to look after his headstrong adolescent daughter (Angourie Rice) in the Apple TV+ adaptation of Laura Dave's best-seller "The Last Thing He Told Me." She just wasn't sure how to convince Hollywood she was right for the part. ¶ "I'd taken myself out of the game a bit — I needed to be at home and fully available," says Garner, a devoted mom to her and ex-husband Ben Affleck's three children. "I didn't presume to think I was at the top of anyone's list." Then Garner heard that Julia Roberts left the project, and it was go time. She began dashing off letters to the producers. "I was like, 'Here's why I feel like I deserve a shot: I understand what it is to be the grown-up in the room and the weight of that, that I just have to keep showing up.' " Next thing she knew, Hannah was hers.

What about "Last Thing" made you want the role so badly? The thriller aspect? Wrangling a teenager? Houseboat life in Sausalito?

The stakes were so high. I like when emotions are pushed to the limit. Hannah's very different from me. She's not maternal and much more of an introvert. I liked the challenge of that. But there were aspects of her life, the conflict of things she'd gone through that felt familiar to me. I felt eager to play that out and explore.

How much energy did you put into learning how to turn Hannah's free-form wooden bowls?

So much energy. Part of the fun of our job is we get insight into a whole other world. The more you dive in, the more you get out of it. [I'm] from West Virginia, a state full of artisanal work of all kinds. I was really excited for that opportunity. But also, this is so goofy, but the truth: When "Bridges of Madison County" came out, I remember reading that Meryl Streep ironed sheets for months just to get the feel in her body of this woman at the center of the story. If Meryl does it, there's got to be something to it. And there's truth to that. It really helped me tap into Hannah's stillness and her ability to focus and let go.

Early in "Last Thing," you race down a flight of stairs. Was that an "Alias" callback?

It did feel that way to me. Happily so. You wouldn't think this family drama would be something you'd need to train for. But I have so much respect for what it takes at 51 to run down a hallway at top speed, stop on a dime and turn around and do that 25 billion more times.

If you feel like you're being chased, you're running with everything you have. I didn't want there to be limitations for Hannah. So I trained and kept training throughout. The hard thing was the moments that were close enough to "Alias." I had to make myself not fall into the tropes I had as a super spy.

For example?

Like, just as I'm entering a door, I glance back one more time at camera. [*Looks over her shoulder with furtive expression*] I had to tell myself, "Just be straight-up Hannah."

Did "Last Thing" make you want to take on other physical roles?

I feel like there's another action something in there for me. Again, I like the stakes. And if you're fighting, the stakes are pretty high. Something has pushed you there. I like what gets you there and acting my way through that. To me, it's just an extension. It's like if you have dance in a scene and the dance is furthering the story. [Choreographer] Agnes de Mille did that for "Oklahoma!" It was the first musical where dance pushed the story. It was part of the narrative. To me, action has to be the same way. You can't just have action for action's sake. I like the physicality of showing what a scene is about. It's pretty hardcore.

Is there an "Alias" revival in our future?

I'd be thrilled. What's more fun than Sydney Bristow and [being with] that group of people? In the last 24 hours, I've spoken to Greg Grunberg, J.J. [Abrams], Victor [Garber] and Ron Rifkin. It'd just feel natural. But I don't think anyone is thinking this is going to happen. J.J. has never once said to me, "Hey, we should …" Never even a whisper.

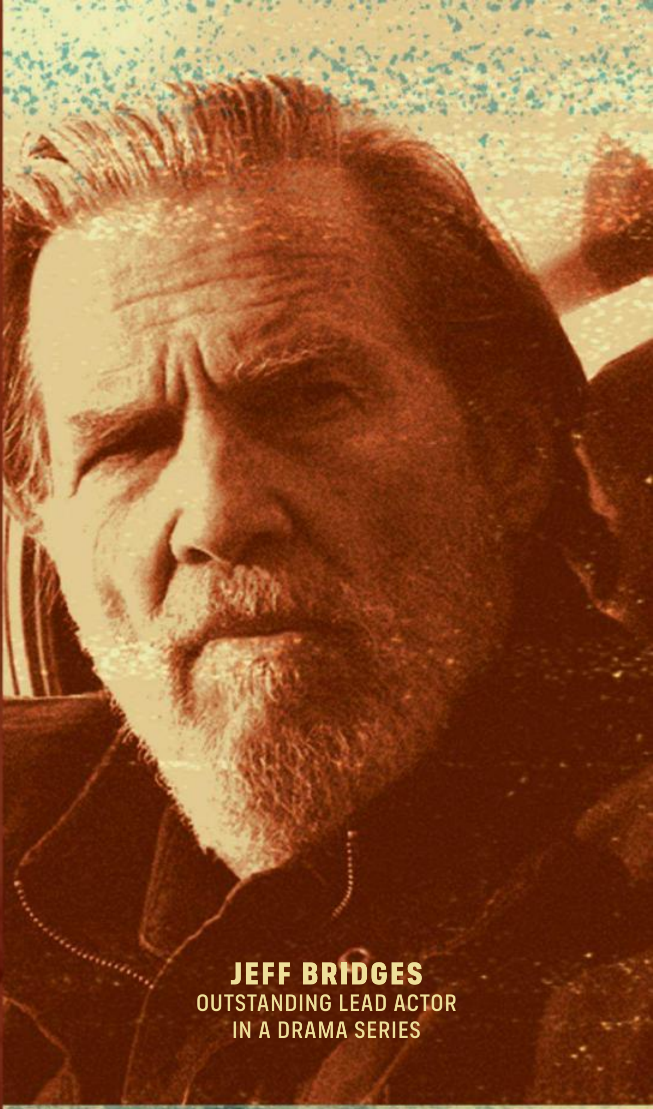
Out of the 105 episodes of "Alias," five were directed by women, including you. "Last Thing" was entirely directed by women. Talk about the difference.

It's wonderful. With women directors, there's a focus that working moms bring that I love. When we were there, we were really there. We didn't spend time talking about it after or standing around for an hour. We were all like, "OK, got to get home. I might make it to bedtime. See you guys!" Who doesn't want to work that way? You just can't say enough about what that does for the environment on the set. It's a really big deal.

THE OLD MAN

FYC OUTSTANDING
DRAMA SERIES

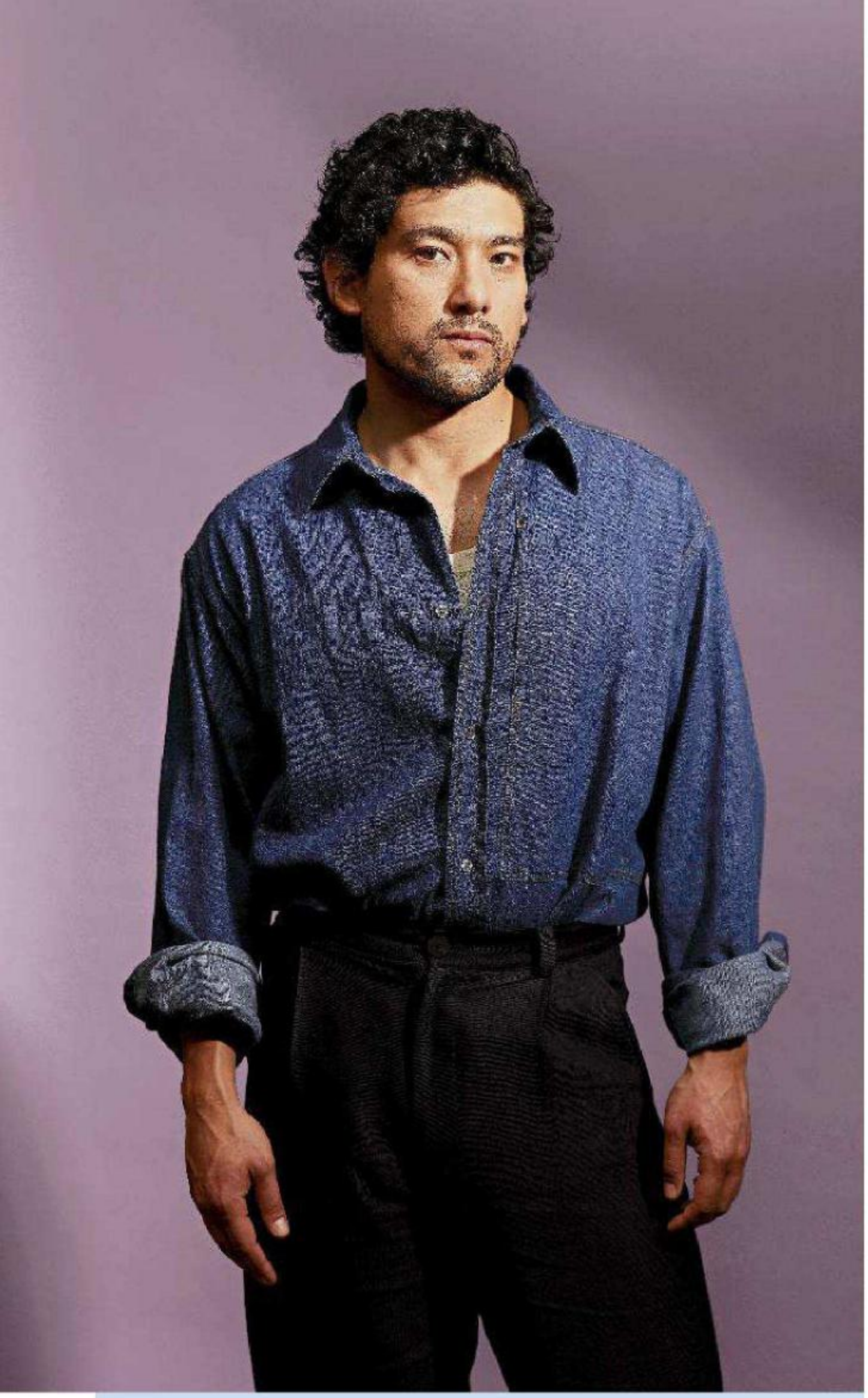
JOHN LITHGOW
OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR
IN A DRAMA SERIES



JEFF BRIDGES
OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR
IN A DRAMA SERIES

ALIA SHAWKAT
OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTRESS
IN A DRAMA SERIES

AMY BRENNEMAN
OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTRESS
IN A DRAMA SERIES



THE CONTENDERS

LUXURIOUS DISCOMFORT

Stories by Tim Grierson

Will Sharpe searched for a way for his conflicted 'White Lotus' character to maintain control. He found it in the ritual of jogging.

WHEN WILL Sharpe was trying to understand Ethan, the tightly wound tech genius he'd play on "The White Lotus," he found himself returning to the character's penchant for jogging.

"It felt like a big clue was the running," he says during a video call from London. "There was something about that that felt important to the character — I guess the discipline and that he's somebody who's trying to keep a regularity to his life. Even if, internally, there's actually absolute chaos, he's trying to keep this level of control."

Throughout the second season of "The White Lotus," set at a swoon-inducing Italian resort, mild-mannered Ethan sticks to his jogging routine, a respite from the growing estrangement he feels from his wife, Harper (Aubrey Plaza), and the lingering resentment he harbors toward Cameron (Theo James), his needling alpha-male college roommate who has remained in his orbit. On vacation with Cameron and his seemingly vapid, picture-perfect wife Daphne (Meghann Fahy) after selling his company for a fortune, the working-class entrepreneur is new to this world of one-percenter opulence, both intrigued and repelled by the luxury. Jogging is the one thing that still feels normal to Ethan.

Unlike his esteemed co-stars, Sharpe isn't principally an actor, recently directing his third feature, the biopic "The Electrical Life of Louis Wain," and the true-life limited series "Landscapers." His last stint in front of the cameras was 2019's "Giri/Haji," a British crime series that won him a BAFTA. But he wasn't anxious about returning to performing — if anything, he was excited.

"I do remember those conversations where people are discussing what [project] they've just come from, and I'm realizing I had been in the director's chair for three years," Sharpe says. "I definitely was aware of the oddness of suddenly being a part of the show. But I had missed it — and one of the things that really made me miss it was I'd just done 'Landscapers.' Watching brilliant actors like David Thewlis and Olivia Colman — watching them have such a good time — that was very gratifying to me as a director but also really made me miss that process and the thrill of that."

Still, Sharpe had to wrestle with Ethan's mysteries as the passive character navigates a rocky impasse in his marriage, eventually nearly getting involved in a one-night hookup with two local sex workers, whose come-ons he rejects — as opposed to the womanizing Cameron. Ethan is a decent but insecure fellow, and Sharpe drew from his childhood growing up in Tokyo and then moving to the UK at 8 when, he says, he struggled to assimilate into a new culture. In a sense, Ethan is doing something similar as he dips his toe into this surreal world of privilege.

"There are a few different ways to interpret the story of that quartet," Sharpe offers. "One of them is that Harper and Ethan take some small piece of Daphne and Cameron's lifestyle — maybe if [they] take a little bit of it, it can get them out of the rut that they're in. But there's another interpretation, which is that Harper and Ethan are innocently on this first-ever luxury vacation, and it's a corruption or an induction into this world. Ethan spends the holiday trying to behave by the rules that he thinks life should be lived by — but in the end, it's like, 'Well, if you want to exist on this plane with us, you need to live by our rules, and those are the rules of white privilege.' So he's becoming the very thing that he hates. You can see it however way you want, really."

"White Lotus" writer-director Mike White encouraged such mysteries, especially among his cast. Before the season begins, Ethan has stopped sleeping with Harper, retreating to the safety of porn rather than face their marital issues, but White wouldn't provide Sharpe with easy explanations for why.

"I asked Mike, 'Is there some root problem that, if they confronted it, it would fix everything?' " Sharpe recalls. "He didn't want there to be that — he just wanted it to be simply about two people who loved each other who had been together for a very long time. What comes with that is atrophy. There was one time where we were filming a scene, and I was like, 'This is really sad.' His response was, 'It's really normal.' "

HE SAID

What can you tell us about co-star Aubrey Plaza?

"My first impressions were that I was relieved. I was a fan of her work, and I was relieved that immediately, as with all the cast, I was treated as an equal. I didn't have a big sense of [her] late-night persona, but I think she probably was a little bit more serious than I had imagined. It felt like we were definitely on the same team in terms of trying to mine the toxicity of this marriage. But I think we both felt like there needed to be some hope for this marriage — that that was the thing to look toward. I am always a fan of people who can deliver funny and dramatic and can navigate that balance. That's my personal taste, and she's definitely somebody who's able to do that."

SHARPE PHOTO BY DAVID VINTINER / FOR THE TIMES. PLAZA PHOTO BY MAIWENN RAOULT / FOR THE TIMES

Aubrey Plaza was asked to play a 'normie,' not an edgy misfit. Still, her Harper feels like an outsider, as the actress sometimes does.

AUBREY PLAZA hosted the very funny Jan. 21 episode of "Saturday Night Live," wielding the dry wit that's long been her trademark on talk shows and social media. But one of the evening's highlights was during the "Weekend Update" segment where she effortlessly reprised her role as April Ludgate, the sarcastic intern from "Parks and Recreation," her breakthrough sitcom.

This wasn't her first time playing April since "Parks" left the air in early 2015 — she was part of the show's 2020 COVID reunion benefit — but it was striking to see her back as the iconic character, Amy Poehler's cheery Leslie Knope by her side. The moment felt like a time warp, especially for Plaza.

"I was terrified to play April Ludgate again," she admits over Zoom from New York. "I had a moment where I was like, 'I don't know how to do this.' I really wish I had been in therapy at the time." To reconnect with April's mind-set, she watched YouTube compilations of the character's highlight moments, "but I was like, 'I hope I can pull this off,' which is just so ridiculous. But it felt very satisfying to put on that wig and pull that hoodie up. What made it so easy is being next to Leslie Knope — I mean, if I had to go out there alone, I don't know if I would've been able to. [The show] did feel forever ago."

It seems even longer when you consider how far Plaza has come since — which brings us to her performance in the second season of "The White Lotus." She plays Harper, a sharp, brittle New York attorney dragged along on a luxury Italian vacation with her husband, Ethan (Will Sharpe), who encourages her to be nice to his college chum Cameron (Theo James) and his wife, Daphne (Meghann Fahy), both of whom strike her as rich dolts. Mired in a flailing marriage, Harper feels abandoned and trapped. It was a role Plaza's good friend, show creator Mike White, wrote specifically for her.

"He kind of made a joke, but he said something along the lines of 'I think it would be really funny if you played a normie,' " recalls Plaza, laughing. "There's lots to dissect there, but I think what he meant was 'I'm not going to cast you as a character that has some kind of extreme behaviors.' I thought, 'OK, well, nobody's really a normie, are they?' "

Still, it's easy to understand White's point. Whether on "Parks and Rec" or in cult indies such as "Ingrid Goes West," Plaza has cornered the market on edgy misfits who excel at making others uncomfortable. But in "The White Lotus," despite Harper's cutting commentary, we bear witness to a melancholy, sensitive soul ill at ease around the resort's obscene wealth and blinkered entitlement. Plaza likes to immerse herself in her characters' headspace.

"I've been called a Method actor — I don't know how to define what I am," she says. "But I don't take things lightly. Whatever the scene of the day is really dictates how my day goes — it dictates my mood; it dictates how I interact with people. I have to say to people, 'Look, don't take it personally.' " Her process wasn't always easy for Sharpe, a director who's not as experienced as an actor, when they'd shoot tense scenes. As Plaza puts it, "There was a learning curve for Will, where he would go, 'Are you mad at me? Are you OK?' And I go, 'No, I'm not OK.' "

But Plaza wasn't merely trying on Harper's loneliness — it's a sensation she knows all too well. "I felt lonely," she says softly about her time on set. "But I think I feel lonely a lot. I mean, I had an incredible time — I loved this cast, I wasn't alone — but, yeah, I think I did [feel lonely]. I understand that about myself. I think it's also a feeling of being misunderstood. I think there's an element of that with Harper — it's sad and exhausting when you feel like you're constantly misunderstood."

No doubt the actress has also been misunderstood, having to escape a pigeonhole that her beloved April put her in. Thankfully, she's doggedly expanded Hollywood's assumptions about what she can do, most recently with the gripping low-budget thriller "Emily the Criminal" and now with "The White Lotus," two performances where she displays startling vulnerability and emotional nuance. Receiving Independent Spirit Award nominations for "Emily," which she also produced, and winning a SAG ensemble prize for "Lotus," she's garnering more accolades than ever before. In fact, later on this day, she'll be feted as part of Time magazine's 100 most influential people.

"This year has been so interesting," she says, taking it all in. "I'm not really doing anything different, but I have glimpses of some kind of shift in perception. It feels really good to feel that people are watching things that I'm doing. 'Emily the Criminal' and 'White Lotus,' I still am in shock just the sheer scope of how many people had eyes on those things — that's rare for me. I feel seen this year in a way that I don't think I ever have. I feel lighter, in a sense."

SHE SAID

What can you tell us about co-star Will Sharpe?

"Once I realized, 'Oh, he's a filmmaker, he's a director, he's a cinephile,' we started nerding out about movies — our favorite movies, older movies, just defining movies for us. How do I describe Will? He's a gentle slayer. He's a smart man and just a kind, great guy. But I do think he has a madness brewing underneath. I think that, in some ways, I got to tap into that a little bit — we got to tap into that madness that we both kind of have. The funny thing is that we both actually had COVID at the same time — our hotel rooms were right next to each other, and we weren't allowed to leave. But we had little shutter windows, and every morning we'd open them and I'd go, 'Good morning, Will!' And he would pop his head out, and we'd have conversations through the windows. It was almost like a movie in itself."

WHERE DOE
E END AND THE ACTOR BEGIN?

DRAMA ACTORS ROUNDTABLE

Jeremy Strong
Christina Ricci
Patrick Stewart
Helen Mirren
Diego Luna
Bella Ramsey

Not e

this: It all begins with giving a damn about the character.

Story by Michael Ordoña

Photograph by Alex Harper

S A ROLE

ven the performers know sometimes. But they do know t

SO THERE THEY SAT, Helen Mirren and Patrick Stewart, speaking across a table one late April day with four other actors talking about the old days. They reminisced about being in the same late-1960s British theater scene, laboring to become top-flight classical thespians. ¶ “We both were saying earlier how strange it is to find ourselves here in Los Angeles and being screen actors,” Mirren says. “Because both of our ambitions when we started was to be theater actors and, very specifically, to be *classical* theater actors. There was a snotty attitude — wasn’t there?” ¶ “Somewhat,” Stewart agrees. ¶ “Of British actors towards American film acting, which I never subscribed to, that it wasn’t real acting. *Real* acting was doing ‘Lear’ in front of 2,000 people without a microphone,” Mirren continues with a laugh. “I always loved American actors. British acting at the time was like looking at a beautifully constructed piece of furniture.... And American acting was like the same piece of furniture, a bit more funky, but real. My ambition was to meld the two together. This sense of control and technique, for want of a better word, with the beauty of the improvisational, instinctive, wonderful thing that is American acting.” ¶ So was it difficult then for Stewart to transition to American TV, in a sci-fi series no less, with “Star Trek: The Next Generation”? ¶ “I found being in front of camera awkward and difficult,” he says. “I don’t think I could relax properly. I was advised by a very good friend, very famous friend; he always said, before the camera rolled or before he made a first entrance on stage, ‘I don’t give a f—.’ And then he would go on and, of course, give a f—.” ¶ Stewart, who brings his Jean-Luc Picard character home this season in “Picard,” and Mirren, who stars in the “Yellowstone” prequel “1923” (both from Paramount+) were joined by four other top actors who, it’s safe to say, do give a ... well, a darn, for The Envelope’s annual Drama Roundtable: Diego Luna, who reprises his “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” role in the well received “Andor” on Disney+; Bella Ramsey, star of perhaps the buzziest new show of the season, HBO’s “The Last of Us”; Emmy nominee Christina Ricci, playing one of the key characters of Showtime’s “Yellowjackets”; and Emmy winner Jeremy Strong of HBO powerhouse “Succession.” ¶ The actors leaped into a far-ranging conversation that touched on melding with their characters, diversity in storytelling and Ramsey’s screen moment with that ax. ¶ *These excerpts have been edited for length and clarity.*

Jeremy, this shocking moment happens on “Succession” when patriarch Logan Roy dies. You and your TV siblings, Kieran Culkin and Sarah Snook, played the whole thing — getting the news, figuring it out — in this long sequence on a yacht.

Helen Mirren: Great stuff.

Jeremy Strong: Thank you.

Christina Ricci: It was amazing.

After you shot the coverage, you got to shoot it straight through, like a 28-minute unbroken take?

Strong: It was a brilliant piece of writing, first and foremost. And I’m sure we all feel, you know, “There but for the grace of the writing.” The way they wrote about the suddenness of grief and the mundane way that it plays out — I don’t know about you guys, but when you get something that you just think, “Oh, f— me,” because this is a moment that requires something in you cracking open and being overtaken by something, and will that or won’t that come?

Ricci: So much anxiety.

Strong: We shot it over three days. It was a 28- or 29-page scene. And I think everybody felt pretty loaded with what was happening, and there wasn’t a lot of discussion, and everyone was very focused. And then, at the end, [director] Mark Mylod said, “OK. I want everyone to walk away for two hours. Then we’re going to come back and we’re going to just do it all in one continuous take.” And we shoot on film, so they were tag-team reloading cameras.

Patrick Stewart: Several cameras?

Strong: Yeah. Four cameras.

Stewart: [Laughs] Wow.

Mirren: So that was almost like theater.

Strong: It was like a play, but with the intimacy of [on-camera work], and that’s mostly the take that’s in the —

Diego Luna: Really?

Mirren: I thought that was improvised, a lot of that.

Strong: Some of it. But the text is quite precise.

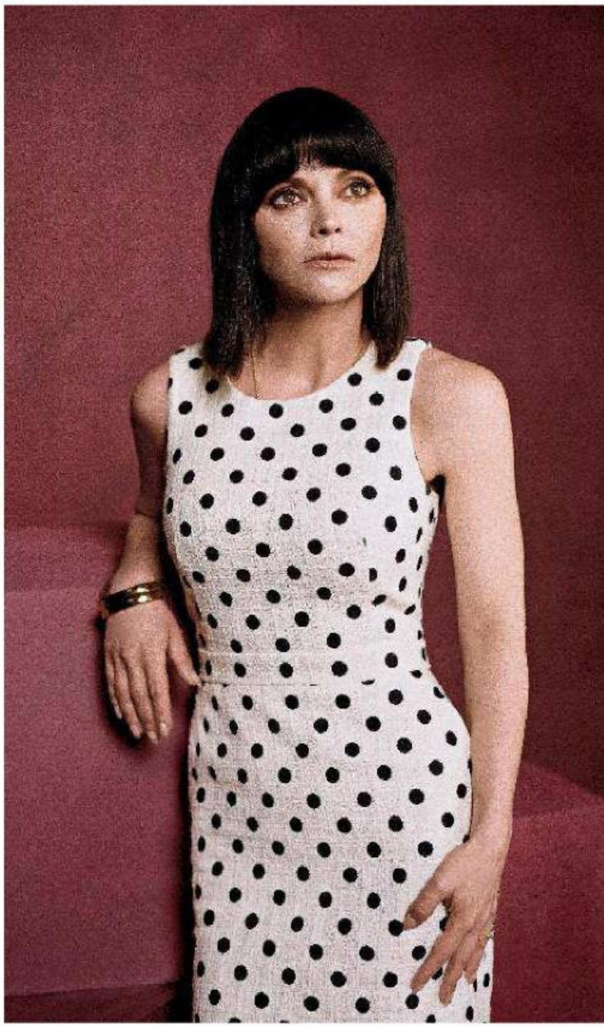
Mirren: I thought, “That can’t be written and learned. [Laughs] They wouldn’t be acting like that if it was written.” And you were!

Strong: But it felt, I don’t know, one of those times where you touch on the garment of something that acting can be if you were very lucky and the lightning strikes. Did everybody see “[Top Gun:] Maverick”? You know, where a bunch of miracles had to happen? It was like 17 miracles had to happen. Everyone had to do this double black diamond in concert with each other, every person on the crew and the actors. Somebody texted me the other day, an actor, said, “You should probably just move to the desert and die.” [Laughter]

You had a line that’s something like, “Let’s not restrict our future movements.” That was the first time I thought, “He’s ready. He can lead.”

Strong: Jesse Armstrong, the writer, had written this stage direc-

PORTRAITS BY ALEX HARPER / FOR THE TIMES



SERIES PHOTOS BY EMERSON MILLER / PARAMOUNT+; LUCASFILM LTD.; KAILEY SCHWERMAN / SHOWTIME

tion that there's a moment where Kendall's up on the top of the boat and finds out definitively that his father is gone. Jesse wrote this paragraph, essentially: "He was on the sharp tip of Manhattan but also of history, American history, and that something awful, the unimaginable, had happened, but he was also liberated, and the world was both off its axis but still solid, and he felt like he could be a wraith or a super being."

Mirren: And that was in the stage direction?

Strong: I was like, "Right."

Mirren: Oh, my God. How beautiful.

Strong: That was something to just set the subtext — put that in your unconscious and see what comes out.

Did you all, in your various seasons, feel like your characters had hinge moments? I mean, for Misty, there's one that happens to young Misty. But how about for current Misty?

Ricci: There are ways you can take her where she's so extreme and she could be a caricature. She doesn't show a lot of emotion. It's the whole way she operates, and for much of Season 1, there was just no emotion. All this passive-aggressive, hard smile and veneer and everything. There's one scene where she finally breaks and is emotional for, like, five seconds, and she gets it right back together. I thought that was a real moment, because from there she's become more emotional. We've gotten to see more of her, and I think it's helped to make her more well-rounded.

You can't just have a character that is always living in an artifice without seeing beneath it a little bit.

"Andor" has many moments that show him on the path to becoming the hero of "Rogue One."

Luna: Definitely. For me, it's the loss of the mother — Maarva, the character played by Fiona Shaw. She has every answer he needs; it's just that he's not ready when she's around. It's when he gets that. It's a scene I did without having her on set. Because you're hearing the voice, and he's just listening to a message ... it was everything. I had to stop myself from crying nonstop and not being able to do it because it was so strong. It was, like, suddenly, everything that connects me with the character was there, exposed. It was difficult to say, "No. I have to do the scene." You know? I have to stop being myself. "I'll talk to my

IN AND OUT of "1923," far left, is Helen Mirren. Above, Christina Ricci, and as her unintentionally funny Misty in "Yellowjackets." Above left, Diego Luna in "Andor." This time he's doing the role for himself.

“THERE WAS a blurring of the connection between actor and character. And that felt good. It felt authentic,” Patrick Stewart, above right, says of his longtime “Star Trek” role.

mom later” [laughs]. Because there was no way to not connect like that.

Bella, same question about Ellie.

Bella Ramsey: I think at the end of Episode 8, when she’s just had this experience with David. She’s been kept captive by him, and then she kills him with the ax. That moment is a catharsis. It’s a release of all the pain and the fear that she’s been experiencing. And the loss. That moment is so pivotal, because there’s a line David says to her when she’s in the cage: “You have a violent heart.” She resists that instantly, because she knows, deep down, that she *does*. And then this moment at the end of the episode, you see that violence. She does have a violent heart. David was right.

What scares her the most in that moment isn’t what David did to her; it’s what she, in the end, did to him. He was dead after, like, the second hit. I think someone counted: There were, like, 28 hits to the face with this ax. She could’ve stopped, but she didn’t; she kept going and she enjoyed it. That’s what scared her. There’s a shift in her that will inform seasons to come.

SEE THEM IN ACTION

Go online at *latimes.com/envelope* for a video clip from this gathering and tune into Spectrum News 1 at 7 p.m. on June 15 for the premiere of the full conversation, which airs several times this month.

Strong: You’re incredible in that scene.

Luna: Yeah.

Ramsey: Thank you.

Strong: It’s primal and —

Luna: Raw.

Patrick, you’ve had such a long history with Jean-Luc Picard. Did you feel like there were steps along the way in Season 3 that felt like you were on the right path?

Stewart: No. I don’t think it did, because one of the problems as well as one of the pleasures, of shooting “Star Trek,” of being Jean-Luc Picard, has been that the longer I worked on it, the more he became me. By “me,” I don’t mean Patrick Stewart was flying the Enterprise [laughs]. But there was a blurring of the connection between actor and character. And that felt good. It felt authentic and honest — and honesty was always one of [his] most important elements, that he would speak the truth but always in a sensitive way.

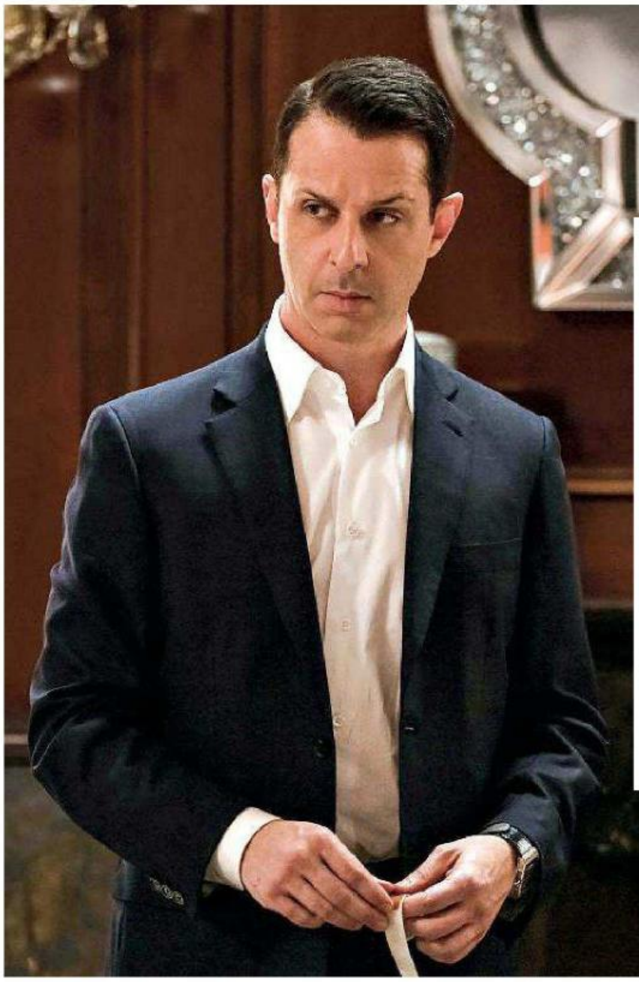
Until in “Picard,” in Season 3, when he learns that he has a son. All his life he has said, “Starfleet is my family. I don’t need anything else.” And then we realize when the impact of that news hits him, that he wanted that all his life. And just built up this pretension of being OK, and he wasn’t OK. So that was a great revelation and an opening for me, which I like very much, because it made him vulnerable, weak. I was shouting at Beverly Crusher; things that had never happened before, and yet they were authentic, and that felt good. Writing is so important. When you turn the page and there’s something there that stirs feelings inside you.

Diego and Patrick, you’re picking up these characters after years off from them. Did you feel you brought something new, maybe from changes in your life or your perspective?

Luna: Definitely. I was doing “Rogue One” for my kids. I’m doing “Andor” for myself. This is a more mature approach to the character. I’m finding a way to reflect much more of what worries me in this than in “Rogue One.” But you change. That’s the beauty of our job. Otherwise, you would be very, very unhappy repeating yourself over and over. We change, and the characters that we can play change,

SERIES PHOTOS BY TRAE PATTON / PARAMOUNT+; HBO

PORTRAITS BY ALEX HARPER / FOR THE TIMES



WRITERS get credit from Jeremy Strong, above, for strong scenes in "Succession." And Bella Ramsey, left, says Ellie in "The Last of Us," has her own demons.

and our perspective is never the same.

You're a producer on it. You're involved in the writers room. Right?

Luna: I mean, I'm there to celebrate them. To clap. "S—, you just keep going." [Laughter]

Strong: They won't let me in the writers room. [Laughter]

Jeremy and Christina, do you feel like each season you're bringing more of yourself, your own experiences and perspectives?

Ricci: I do. It's interesting what you [Stewart] said when you realized how much you and Jean-Luc Picard were melding. I really have an issue with that.

When I did the first season, you know, Misty is sort of this outrageous character and is supposed to be funny. But I never played her funny, because I'm not a comedian. So I play her in the most truthful way I can, and she ends up being funny, and it makes me so uncomfortable when people tell me that they think it's funny. And they'll be like, "You have to figure this out, why you hate that she's funny." And I think it really is because my ego has melded with hers, and it feels like ... she wouldn't want to be laughed at.

I've been doing this for 35 years; eventually I'll learn how to separate myself emotionally from my character.

Ramsey: Or not.

Mirren: No. [Laughs] You never will.

Helen, for "1923," which has been picked up for a second season, you've said you're interested in exploring that period of American history in a less-clean way than we usually see it.

Mirren: Well, it's hard for any country. We're all still in the process. Britain, they're suddenly recognizing the fact that, yes, they were involved in the slave trade. So it's not surprising that America will take — it takes many centuries, maybe, to come to terms with what your true history is. I find it so terrifying here in America, the whole idea of not really teaching American history in schools. ... But, yes, I do see what ["1923" creator and showrunner Taylor Sheridan] is doing as an investigation of American history as much as anything.

Diego, if you were to be nominated for lead actor for a drama, my understanding is you'd be the second Latinx actor ever nominated.

Luna: Yes. Obviously I don't care about those things. But I was told that yesterday.

It's just one actor has been nominated. [Jimmy Smits, five nominations as the lead for "NYPD Blue"; no wins] One Latino actor has been nominated in the history, in 75 opportunities.

Ricci: That's wild.

Luna: It's just insane. It's ridiculous. If there were no stories, if you couldn't see the experience of people that come from a context like mine, I would be very disappointed. The opportunity to be telling stories that matter to you is what you have to fight for.

I grew up thinking what I'm doing now was impossible. To do a show that I care about, that I like the acting, the tone, that I feel challenges the audience and is popular, too. That is huge.

I was told that couldn't happen [with a Latino actor]. And today I'm doing that.

GOODBYE **'BETTER CALL SAUL'**

Prequel stretched success further

For a lot of fans steeped in the Gilliverse, the 'Breaking Bad' spinoff surpassed its predecessor in storytelling quality.

By Randee Dawn

BOB ODENKIRK
as Jimmy/Saul.

PHOTO BY GREG LEWIS / AMC / SONY PICTURES TELEVISION

HOW IN THE world did TV get lucky enough to produce a "Better Call Saul"? Here was a show, which ended its six-season run on AMC last August, designed as both prequel and sequel to one of the network's golden geese, "Breaking Bad," whose star, Bob Odenkirk, had never led a dramatic series before and who was reviving a secondary character called Saul Goodman who'd originated elsewhere. It shouldn't have happened.

So why did it? Because "Breaking"/ "Saul" creator Vince Gilligan was terrified of writer's block.

"I just wanted to keep working," Gilligan says in a conversation before the writers' strike. "After the success of 'Breaking Bad,' I knew if I didn't have another show quick, I would be paralyzed by success. I would have writer's block like the world has never witnessed, and I'd be done. Selfishly, I needed something to roll into — so we jumped off the cliff without looking down."

"Saul" might have rested on "Breaking's" laurels. That two-time winner of the drama series Emmy had raised the bar on novelistic television and done so on a non-premium cable network, ending in 2013. It had stuck the landing with a satisfying, devastating final episode. The character of Saul Goodman, meanwhile, was a scam artist-lawyer who represented "Breaking's" main characters. He was very present — Saul appeared in 43 of the 62 episodes — but something about the way Odenkirk embodied him as a wretched loss of a man whom you nonetheless rooted for suggested that maybe he could hold his own in a new show.

"I struggled with the character's limitations," admits Odenkirk. "It was hard at times to play someone who was so aware, and yet unaware, of their own mistakes and shortcomings. But everything about who he was at the end of ['Better Call Saul'] was within him from the beginning."

Gilligan and longtime collaborator Peter Gould (who served as an executive producer on "Breaking" and became "Saul's" showrunner in Season 2) had the advantage of a deep midlife story for Saul and a vast empty field in which to sketch both his history and post-"Breaking" future, weaving the latter two into a show that may have exceeded its origins, despite having yet to win an Emmy.

"Half the people I run into — maybe more than half — are bigger fans of 'Saul' than 'Breaking Bad,' " notes Gilligan. "I thought I'd hate hearing that, but it turns out, I don't. The life lesson is to not overthink things."

The freedom of that blank space to create meant Gould and Gilligan could shape their characters to the chemistry and personality of the actors they hired. Kim Wexler was not initially written as pivotal, but Rhea Seehorn's portrayal made her so, all the way up to the finale.

"Rhea could bring a remarkable intelligence [to the role] while using very little dialogue," Gould says in an April conversation. "The more we watched her, the more we realized there was a lot more to this lady."

"They did a remarkable job of letting her evolve," says Seehorn, whose character became Saul's confidant, collaborator and wife in the course of the show. "She makes surprising decisions that are not for shock value but born of her complexity. I loved how much they trusted me as the actor, and the audience, with the unspoken subtext."

Wisely, the show also included actors and characters that resonated from their "Breaking" roles. It was a way of resurrecting Walter White, Jesse Pinkman, Gus Fring and Mike Ehrmantraut for an audience well aware of their future fates. For Jonathan Banks, who played Mike, there was no question that he'd come back for another shot in the role. "The simplicity of it is that it's great storytelling, because it doesn't give away a lot of stuff," he says. "There's always something clever, something going on."

"Saul" always had its eye on the big picture, too. Gould and company paid attention to all details in what he refers to as the "Gilliverse," from the devolving, degrading opening credit sequences, to showing Jimmy's future in black and white, to developing an overarching thesis of the story they wanted to tell. "So much of what both shows are about is: What do you leave behind in life? What is the difference your life made in the world for good or evil?" Gould says.

These days, Gilligan is working with Seehorn on an untitled show at Apple TV+; Odenkirk has moved on to Peacock's "Lucky Hank"; and Gould says he'd consider more stories told in this universe — at some later date.

"Vince and I both decided it would be good to give the Gilliverse a little bit of a rest," he says. "But we had a big board with ideas or scenes we were interested in or would be fun — and there were a lot of them still on that board when we finished up the show. Maybe that's a good thing, though. You want to leave something you didn't get to."

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DAMSON IDRIS
OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTOR
IN A DRAMA SERIES

THE CONTENDERS

Foibles get a messy, human ambassador

‘The Diplomat’ star Keri Russell and creator Debora Cahn see value in imperfection.

By Robert Abele

A MARRIAGE OF UNEQUAL EQUALS is at the core of Netflix’s hit series “The Diplomat,” in which whip-smart Middle East specialist Kate Wyler (Keri Russell) is thrust into a high-profile ambassadorship in the United Kingdom with her legendary former diplomat husband, Hal (Rufus Sewell), in tow. “What does it mean to be second on the totem pole for so long, then become No. 1?” asks showrunner Debora Cahn of her show’s central premise. “How do your priorities change, and your image of the work?” ¶ For Russell, coming off an all-timer of a show about marriage and work so tensely knit together (“The Americans”), the appeal was evident: When the stakes are international-incident level, messiness in humans is especially fun to play. “Kate is really harsh to people, and she’s in this complicated relationship,” she says during an April Zoom conversation with both women. “It’s likable when people have flaws.”

What inspired this show, Debora? And you to get involved, Keri?

Debora Cahn: When I worked on “Homeland,” we had expert after expert come in. This woman named Beth Jones, she was an ambassador, and had been assistant secretary of State, and she looked a bit like a librarian, or more exactly, my Aunt Ruthie. Then she starts talking about what she does in a typical day, and it’s like an action movie. I got excited about her stories.

Keri Russell: Deb has said it’s her love letter to the State Department and diplomats everywhere.

Cahn: Once there was a script, the dream was Keri Russell. Like, “Who’s a pale imitation of Keri Russell?” Somebody was like, “Why don’t we call her?” And she said yes!

Russell: I loved Debora’s writing, the discomfort on top of being smart and bossy. [Kate’s] not polished. I like how unapologetically herself she is as a character. No one likes the perfect person. They’re not fun to watch.

Keri, was it fun to switch from geopolitical power talk to sparring with Rufus?

Russell: There’s a lot of foreign policy jargon that is difficult to memorize, pages of fast-flying dialogue, but the screwballness of it is the most fun. The other stuff is so solid that you’re allowed these minimal moments of wackiness. I like the weird, absurd minutiae of it all.

Cahn: There’s a slapsticky thing that is my expression of the absurdity of what I think all worlds are like. This show is sort of positioned right in the center of all that emotion, tragedy and comedy. The dream is always that you get people who can do it in the same moment, and Keri and Rufus can do that. They both have the ability to live on the head of that pin.

Russell: I’ve already had so many girlfriends of mine text me about a certain tussle in the bushes, like “I bet you did like that.”

Ah, yes, the Episode 3 scene when Hal admits to some emotional underhandedness, and Kate decides to fight him, very awkwardly.

Russell: [Rufus and I] were both like, it should feel really stupid and messy, like embarrassing fighting. I just attacked him, and he was like, dealing with a 10-year-old nephew or something. And he’s a big guy. He’s so good, so smart, his mind moves a mile a minute. He’s a safe pair of hands to play with.

Cahn: The wackier it is, the more people are like, “Oh, it’s a real relationship.”

Russell: They have this real electricity and meeting of the minds that no one else has with Kate, and no one puts up with Kate like Hal does. Also, as crazy as he is all throughout the first season, I feel he’s a fierce protector of her. He would humiliate himself for her.

And Kate gets to turn around and be the adult in the room dealing with petulant world leaders, like Rory Kinnear’s British PM.

Russell: You have to be the best version of a mom, who’s able to deal with multiple tantrums at once, and no one cares about you. You’re invisible. You haven’t eaten. They still don’t care. They just want their stuff. I have a 6-year-old. I get it.

Which also allows the show to feel like a piece of door-slamming, entrance-and-exit theater.

Cahn: I love what I think of as a big-house story, like all the Chekhov plays, and even “The Big Chill.” And we got some good big houses. It’s not accidental that [scenes] are in drawing rooms that have a lot of doors. I mean, it’s all stolen from French farce.

With your swearing, Keri, as this fantastic top note.

Russell: Was it at the read-through, Debora, that we were peeing together in the bathroom, and you said something like, “You say ‘f—face’ really well”?

Cahn: Yes! It’s really a delight. Each [obscenity] you say is its own snowflake.

Russell: You know President Obama was walking into those rooms afterward going, “That guy’s a dick.” Because the whole thing is about your face value, what you’re presenting. It’s so high-stress, and things move so quickly.

Cahn: For people who say, “Why does she curse so much, and boy, she spills a lot on her clothes,” I’m like, isn’t that normal? I’m actually worried now that my experience of the world, maybe it’s just me. And I need to clean up my language.

Russell: I love it.

Cahn: A lot of the stuff that seems the most far-fetched is 100% real. Like the guy dying in [the British foreign secretary’s] office? That happened to Susan Rice, and they had to sneak him out of the building, because he can’t have died there. And, still, people from his country are convinced she poisoned him.

DAVID GYASI, above, as Austin Dennison, with Russell as Kate Wyler, who is thrust — flaws and all — onto the international stage via a prime State Department job.

SERIES STILL BY ALEX BAILEY / NETFLIX

PORTRAIT BY MARK SOMMERFELD / FOR THE TIMES

Russell, left,
and Cahn.

TRACY NGUYEN / FOR THE TIMES

Those teenage years are especially tough

'Yellowjackets' actors are still processing the physically and emotionally grueling second season. **By Tim Grierson**

LIV HEWSON IS WONDERING if this is the same room. "We were trying to figure it out," they say. "Where we're having this discussion right now, it's the same building that I auditioned for the show. We all came here, right?" ¶ It was years ago that Hewson and the rest of the cast that play the teenagers in "Yellowjackets" first read for their roles. We're sitting in a conference room at Showtime's Hollywood offices, and Hewson (who plays Van) is joined by their co-stars: Jasmin Savoy Brown (Taissa), Courtney Eaton (Lottie), Samantha Hanratty (Misty), Sophie Nélisse (Shauna) and Sophie Thatcher (Natalie). Much has happened since those early days — chiefly, the critical acclaim and intense fandom that greeted the show's first season, which both follows the teens as they fight to stay alive after their 1996 plane crash and chronicles the survivors as adults now in the present.

THE "DOOMCOMING" episode from the first season, with Kevin Alves and Sophie Nélisse, above. Other "teen" actors, clockwise from top far left, are Jasmin Savoy Brown, Sophie Thatcher, Samantha Hanratty, Nélisse, Courtney Eaton and Liv Hewson.

Season 2 proved just as gripping, and even more upsetting, and the sextet catch up while soaking in online response to the most recently aired episode, "Qui," in which audiences learn the shocking truth of what happened to Shauna's pregnancy out there in the woods.

"It's been very overwhelming," says Nélisse, who gives a heartbreakingly anguished performance in "Qui." But although everyone is in good spirits, she and her fellow actors are still processing the physically and emotionally grueling second season. Did the writers give Nélisse any sense of what Shauna's harrowing journey would be like?

"We're really not given anything," she says, prompting a chorus of sympathetic laughter. "I would appreciate [knowing], but also it kind of works, because our characters don't actually know what's going to happen to them."

Naturally, the cast suspected their characters' situation would only get worse, but they didn't anticipate how bad. Cannibalism, dead babies, murder: This women's soccer team faced a little bit of everything, and eventually it impacted the actors away from the set.

"I started having bad dreams," Brown says.

"By the end of the season, everyone was having bad dreams," Thatcher adds.

"I still am," Brown tells Thatcher. "My dreams are f— now. Are yours too?

"Very violent," Thatcher replies.

Hearing others talking about their lingering trauma triggers a feeling of guilt for Nélisse.

"I feel like the biggest impostor," she admits. "I know we all have impostor syndrome, but I genuinely don't know what it feels like to be in a character. Obviously, I know how to cry and I find sadness in my life to be able to cry. But you call, 'Cut,' and [then] I'm chilling. I've never felt affected by one of my roles. I'm doing a scene and I'm sobbing, but I'm thinking about the camera guy that has his shirt inside-out."

The rest of the actors offer encouragement, insisting that no one's process is better than another. This inspires Thatcher to discuss being comfortable with solitude while getting into character. "I make music, and music is just really the most important thing to me," she explains. "I learned on Season 2 that I can go to my trailer and have alone time and people will respect that — I don't always have to hang out. I put in my headphones and get in that headspace." As for her playlist, Thatcher replies, "Season 2, Natalie is just more conflicted — she's more isolated, more depressed — so, more Elliott Smith."

Inside jokes and a flurry of compliments bounce around the table throughout the hour-long conversation. But the actors also reveal a certain amount of vulnerability, feeling safe around one another. When Eaton attempts to describe the enigmatic Lottie, she acknowledges that, two seasons in, it's still a challenge.

"Lottie is such a trick to try to explain," Eaton says. "She represents something not as physical as the rest of the characters. She's more of an idea that is pushing the show forward. It's hard to break that down. I just intuitively know what she's going to do."

"You're such an instinctive performer," Hewson replies reassuringly, as the others nod.

For Hanratty, adjusting to playing the scheming, needy Misty has gotten easier, but not without some pain along the way.

"Me and Misty have a similarity in that we're both *a lot*," Hanratty says. "I know I'm a lot, and I think that Season 1, I was very self-conscious of that. I felt insecure — anything little that happened, I was so sensitive to it. It could just be a look that somebody didn't even mean to do, and I'm like, 'Everybody hates me.' "

Eaton chimes in: "Also, you're [doing] a full physical transformation, more so than we are. That's going to have an effect on the way you see yourself. For a whole day, we shoot how many hours, and you go back to your trailer and you don't see *you* in the mirror."

"I'm not going to lie: I *feel* ugly. I don't feel cute," Hanratty responds. "Well, this season I feel cute, but first season I didn't feel cute. I felt like a big person — I felt like I was just huge in this world, like I'm suffocating people around me. But I got on anxiety medication." She laughs. "I'm doing much better now."

"Shout out Lorazepam!" Brown says. "No, wait, that's me."

"Lexapro for me, baby!" says Hanratty, later noting, "Jasmin is really good at advocating for herself and being like, 'I'm not comfortable with this.' And that inspires me to go, 'Oh, OK, I can say that too.' "

"So often, I'm the only Black woman in the room," Brown replies, "so I've had to learn how to thread this line between standing up for myself but not doing it in a way that comes off as 'bossy' or 'mean.' " She smiles mischievously. "But I am an Aries, so it's natural to me."

This season was filled with mixed emotions for Brown. "I did not hang out," she says. "I was busy falling in love, so I was not interested in hanging out. And, also, I had a really awful death in my family this season. So I just didn't want to be around for anything."

Speaking out is also something important to Hewson, who uses they/them pronouns — and not just in terms of ensuring that Taissa and Van's romantic relationship has depth. ("Being able to portray this relationship is special to me," they say. "I care about it. It's something that I would've loved [to see] as a [younger] audience member.") In late April, Hewson announced that they wouldn't be submitting themselves for Emmy consideration because of the awards' gendered acting categories.

"What is structurally different about acting that requires it to be separated by sex?" asks Hewson, who insists they have no issue with fellow nonbinary actors choosing to participate in the Emmy race. "For some reason, in this one specific job, there is a category for men and a category for women, and I am neither of those things. Why is the onus on me to respond to a system that is *arbitrarily* set up to not include me? I'm not going to bend over backwards to try and make that easier for anybody else. You fix it."

One of the advantages of the cast members being constantly left in the dark about what happens next on "Yellowjackets" is that they don't have to worry about spoiling anything. ("I know that the cabin is burned down," Hanratty says in such a way that it's not entirely clear if she's joking. Though by now, fans of the series will know.) But these actors fully expect more treacherous things to come. They survived this season, so bring it on.

"I think Season 3, we're just hoping for the downfall of everyone," Eaton says.

"I'm so curious," Nélisse responds. "And a little scared."

SERIES STILL BY KAILEY SCHWERMAN / SHOWTIME

PORTRAITS BY TRACY NGUYEN / FOR THE TIMES

THE CONTENDERS

Get a whiff of this pairing: MI5 slob and a mother hen

In 'Slow Horses,' Gary Oldman is a sharp-tongued veteran spy, and by his side is the 'bit OCD,' recovering-alcoholic secretary played by Saskia Reeves. You're free to imagine the pair's personal history.

By Margy Rochlin

WHEN LONDON-BASED AUTHOR Mick Herron's "Slough House" books were in the early stages of being developed into an episodic espionage drama, only two books in the gripping, darkly comic series had been written. Since then, Herron has churned out six more compulsively readable, tightly plotted volumes, and "Slow Horses," the Apple TV+ show, is such a hit after two seasons that the streamer has green-lighted two more. ¶ Oscar winner Gary Oldman stars as Jackson Lamb, a sharp-tongued veteran spy and the supervisor of Slough House, where intelligence officers who have fallen out of favor are sloughed aside. By his side is secretary and recovering alcoholic Catherine Standish, played by Saskia Reeves. Recently, Oldman and Reeves could be found on Zoom talking about Jackson's withering one-liners, Catherine's tidying-up tendencies and a possible backstory not suggested on the series.

Gary, all the lacerating insults toward the other actors' characters — is it as enjoyable to play as it looks?

Oldman: It's just a lot of fun. I'll go through the script and I'll have a real corker of a line, and I always think, "Oh, that's such a great moment. I can't wait to see the expression on their faces when I give them the zinger." For an actor who's been doing it over 40 years, is 65 and has played every damn thing and every emotion you could possibly imagine, it's a real compliment to [everyone] that I want to get out of bed and be with the most glorious, adorable bunch of people that anyone could ever have to work with.

Saskia, explain Catherine's central importance to Slough House.

Reeves: Other than it's great to have a woman of a certain age in such a contemporary piece, [Catherine and Jackson] both represent the analog version of life before computers and internet. She knows about that world as much as he does. Also she did have a lot of respect for Jackson because her boss, who she put on such a high pedestal, thought Jackson Lamb was the business. But Jackson Lamb challenges that picture again and again and again. At the beginning, [Gary and I] imagined — can I say, Gary?

Oldman: Sure!

Reeves: We imagined they got highly drunk years ago and maybe had a quick knee trembler around the back of the pub and then she probably blankly forgot. They talk like an old married couple sometimes. They've shared lots and know lots of the same people who've died or behaved terribly or killed people. Even though Catherine isn't a spy, she's worked for the head of MI5. As she's said, "I've been party to a lot of ops." But, as with all the Slow Horses, she has a muddied past and very little self-confidence. But as the series goes on, and her sobriety holds, I think she realizes that she has more to offer.

Why then does Jackson keep offering alcoholic drinks to Catherine?

Reeves: I've always imagined Jackson was saying to Catherine quietly, "Are you able to hold on because I want you in this job and you can't stay if you fall off the wagon again." I interpreted it as a constant challenge of "Can you do the job?"

Oldman: Not that he'd ever openly admit it, but there's an admiration there, an admiration for people who can stop. Often big,

heavy drinkers know they have a problem, but they have to drink. Jackson is one of those people. I'm 26 years sober, and in my experience the only people that ever teased me were alcoholics themselves. I think there's an element of that with Jackson and Catherine. He knows how tough it is.

He's also brilliant, just several steps ahead of everyone else.

Oldman: Despite his appearance, and that we think he's loafing off, sitting there with his feet on the desk, he was incredibly good at his job at one time. And still very much is. So even though he gives the impression that he doesn't care, I have the feeling he probably cares more than most. Not that he'd ever show it.

Gary, let's go behind the scenes: Is Jackson Lamb's disinterest in personal hygiene expressed in fewer costume changes?

Oldman: He's pretty filthy, smelly. There're several references to my body odor in [the season] we're currently shooting. I've two costume changes: my filthy summer Columbo [trench coat] with cigarette burns and my winter coat, a horrible thing. I've the same shoes, same socks, same suit. A variety of rather dull-looking shirts that I switch up once in a while. I have a horrible green tie. There's no decisions. I just come in. There's lots of grease in my hair and a pack of cigarettes. That's it.

Saskia, why do TV critics always describe Catherine as Slough House's "mother hen"?

Reeves: They say "mother hen" because she's the oldest woman in the room, looks after everybody and is sort of annoyingly fussy. She's a bit OCD. She has only got to do a little bit of espionage work since she's been at Slough House. But she's never been in this situation before, trying to find the number on the plates of a truck or being kidnapped. Even though she's basically a secretary who's trying to stay sober and having to put up with this smelly man, her life is pretty exciting.

There's a debate among "Slow Horses" fans about Jackson's public flatulence. Is it for comic relief? Or as a way to throw others off balance?

Oldman: It's all of that.

Reeves: Sometimes he does it because it's funny. Sometimes he does it because he wants people to shut up. Sometimes he does it because he wants to be rude and offensive.

[Laughs] And sometimes he does it because he needs to.

"THEY TALK like an old married couple sometimes," Reeves, with Oldman, above, says of Jackson Lamb and Catherine Standish.

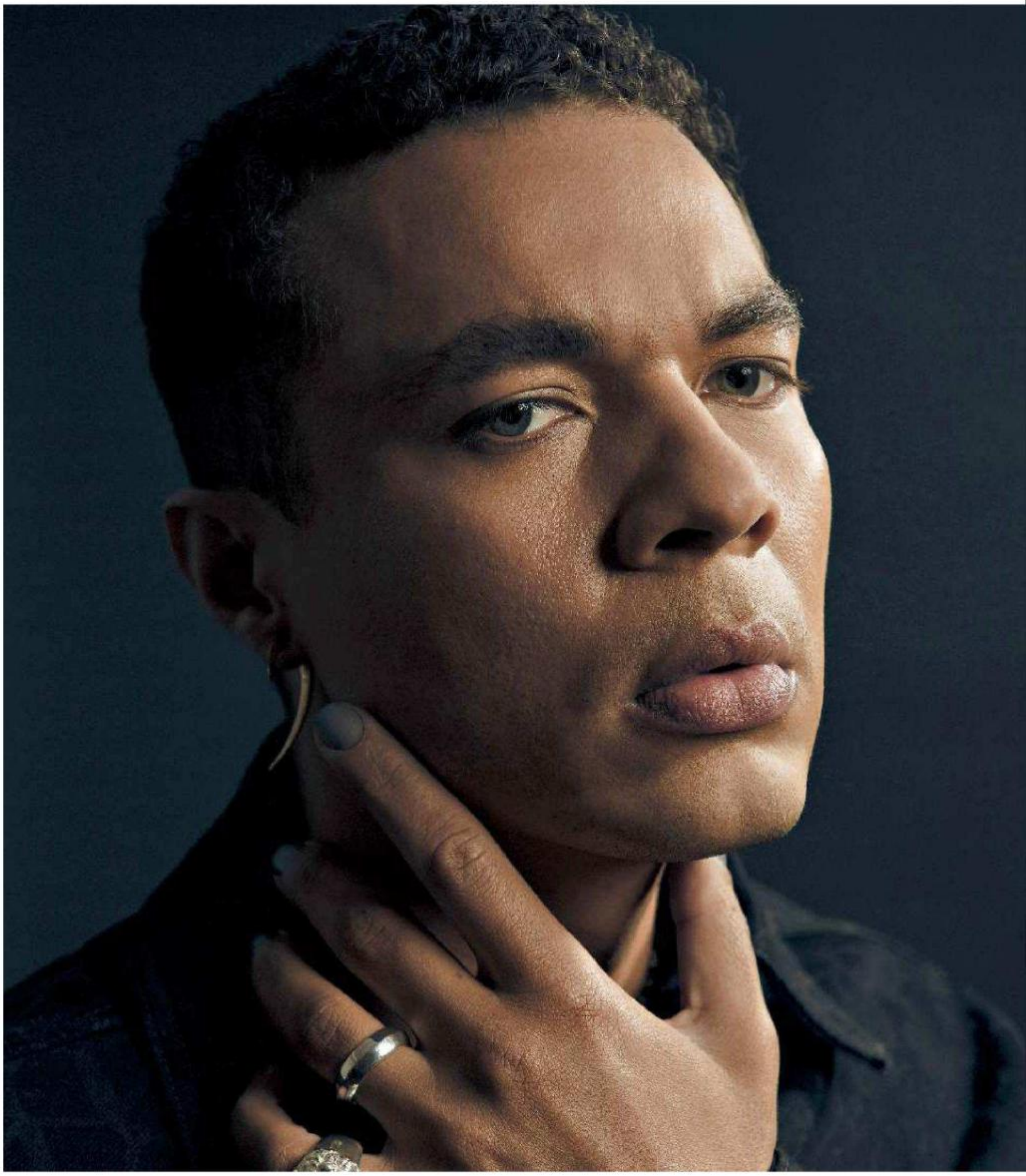
PHOTO BY TOM JAMIESON / FOR THE TIMES

THE CONTENDERS

ELVES OFF THE SHELF

Ismael Cruz Córdova and Morfydd Clark consider the diverse 'Rings of Power' casting to be worth the struggle.

By Emily Zemler



FROM LONDON

WHEN THE casting was announced for "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power," the reaction was divisive, to say the least. Longtime fans of J.R.R. Tolkien's work were divided because the international cast of the Prime Video prequel series was notably inclusive — something fantasy storytelling has frequently lacked. For the actors, who were stepping into both canonical and newly created roles, the response was expected, but still overwhelming.

"I wanted to play this role because of representation," explains Ismael Cruz Córdova, who plays a Silvan Elf named Arondir, a character not in the books. "I love Tolkien, like everybody else loves Tolkien, but there had never been a lead character of color, and, actually, no characters of color. It did not go over my head what I was getting into. I was completely aware of the impact it would have."

He adds, "It was one of the reasons that I fought for the role, fully knowing what would happen, which was massive backlash, internationally, and online bullying, racism attacks, death threats, from the first audition I did. But the impact is undeniable ... and I'm extremely proud I see how it's reverberated through culture."

Córdova's casting process lasted seven months and resulted in several rejections before he finally convinced the producers he was the right person to play Arondir. He felt passionately about the series, as did Morfydd Clark, who plays a younger version of Galadriel (established by Cate Blanchett in the films). Clark only agreed to read for "The Rings of Power" after she confirmed the show would be colorblind casting the roles.

"I'm a big fantasy nerd, and way before this I got quite into the [issues with] the whiteness of the fantasy genre," Clark says. "It's been a conversation that's been happening for ages, and this wasn't a big step, in a lot of ways. It was just an obvious step. They were auditioning everyone, and I'm grateful to [the producers] for doing that."

Clark's own casting process lasted six months — without knowing exactly what she was auditioning for — and she nearly passed out when she got the news during the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019. She flew to New Zealand shortly after, where the cast spent two years in production and waiting out COVID delays, which intensified their bond. Before shooting, they endured a lengthy preparation process, which involved dialect coaching, horseback riding and sword fighting lessons, scuba diving and what Córdova refers to as "elf school," where the focus was on movement and also doing their own stunts.

"I didn't know about all the messiness the elves got into in the First and Second Ages," Clark says. "So the physical stuff was a bit of a shock for me, but a welcome one. To be taught, as an adult, when you actually want to be taught — because I did not want to be taught in school — has been lush.... The elves are so strong, so it was really important that we felt as flexible as we could and as strong as we could."

Córdova embraced Arondir's warrior spirit head-on, training for up to eight hours a day, including while filming. He was led by the first character description he received, which described the elf as an action hero.

"I created this whole movement mythology," Córdova recalls. "We haven't seen a representation of a Silvan Elf to that extent. We've seen a lot of aristocracy in terms of the elves represented, but we haven't seen a common elf. I put together this original movement mythology rooted in capoeira, but I also did kung fu, Wushu, taekwondo and swords. I love martial art films and a lot of people don't understand movement as a storytelling device. But I really do, because I grew up watching films in English and I did not know a

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCCORD / FOR THE TIMES

"THIS WASN'T a big step, in a lot of ways," says Clark, above, with Córdova at left. "It was just an obvious step."

lick of English. The more specific that you are with your body, the better."

Although they spent months together in New Zealand prepping and in lockdown, Clark and Córdova didn't actually shoot a scene together until Episode 6. Still, the pair felt a bond that reverberated through the entire cast and crew. Clark cites the crew as the main thing that helped relieve the pressures of being part of such a high-profile series.

"The experience of doing this job with everybody, in the circumstances that we did it in — it sounds so cheesy, but it did feel like our own personal little fellowship and journey into the complete unknown," she says.

Córdova adds, "There was so much riding on this show, and we were doing it completely removed from our network support, family, country, culture, but on top of that, in this global pandemic that made it impossible for us to leave. We had these personal responsibilities to make it as good as possible. And there was a moment where we were the only actors in the world working, so that also felt like a big responsibility."

Whereas Clark was able to draw on her native Welsh to help with the fantasy language of Sindarin, which the elves speak, Córdova struggled to find Arondir's voice. The actor, who is from Puerto Rico and speaks English as a second language, was nervous about his character's clear British accent.

"I had a massive stutter when I was growing up, and I still mumble," he says. "But [our dialect coach] really encouraged me to find that voice and step forward into the power of that voice. He's not a man of many words, but the words he says are considered and forward. That really moved me, because it brought out an aspect of me that I've struggled with my entire life, which is occupying space and feeling like your voice is worthy."

Galadriel helped Clark to find her voice as well, but in a slightly different way. The actress, who was diagnosed with ADHD at 7 and has always grappled with feeling different, appreciated Galadriel's unabashed strength and straight-forward nature.

"I've always loved fantasy as the outsider," Clark says. "But also when you've been told a lot about what it's like to be a human as someone who's neurodivergent, I enjoyed that I didn't have to do any of those things as an elf. She doesn't have the hang-ups that we have as women in our human world and that was really fun to get rid of that.... I really enjoyed the neurodivergent aspect of that. It felt more natural, in a way, because there was none of the flowery emoting you're taught through life as a woman."

She adds, "She's someone who doesn't fit the normal way of being. I felt very free in terms of the pressures of femininity."

Because of the scope of the show, the actors, who are in production on the series' second season in the UK, weren't completely sure what they were making until it was finished. It felt bigger than the individual performances, particularly because multiple story lines were being shot simultaneously.

"As rich as each world is, that's how it felt to shoot," Córdova notes. "You're in a particular world, you're in a narrative, which I think serves the characters. You really don't know what is happening on the other side of Middle-earth. To me, it was impossible to think about the final product."

Since the premiere of "The Rings of Power," some of the backlash about the casting has died down. The cast members of the films have spoken out in solidarity with the new cast. Last September, Elijah Wood, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan and Sean Astin donned T-shirts with elf faces of various skin tones that read "You All Are Welcome Here" in Sindarin.

"That made such a difference to so many people who loved the films to see their heroes welcoming everyone," Clark says.

"What she's not saying is that she arranged for them to get those," Córdova chimes in. "It's important because we've really been there for each other. We had an experience that it was going be very difficult to repeat. We were our own island. We were our communities and caregivers. It's something I don't think we will ever repeat."

Despite the ups and downs, Córdova is grateful to have helped to break down barriers of inclusion onscreen alongside the rest of the cast. He's had to do a lot of therapy over the last few years, but he also know it's important to give fans the representation they deserve.

"The chapter has closed where there wasn't an elf of color," Córdova says. "We closed that chapter and, poof, the dust went out of that book. And we started a new chapter. It's come at an immense personal cost.... [But] when you have a calling and you have the opportunity that very few people in this world and lifetime have, which is to shift history, I just dove into it. We all did."

So bad, but less than pure evil

Matt Smith says Daemon is 'more sensitive than he lets on,' giving the actor depth to explore.

By Bob Strauss

MATT SMITH seemed like such a nice fellow.

He was the 11th (and, at the time, youngest) actor to play the hero in the venerable BBC sci-fi series "Doctor Who." The English actor then went on to earn an Emmy nomination for portraying royal consort Prince Philip in "The Crown."

But then something happened. Smith, now 40, took to playing very bad guys in such movies as "Terminator Genisys," "Last Night in Soho" and "Morbius." Last year in "House of the Dragon," HBO's prequel to its hit medieval fantasy series "Game of Thrones," he embodied the violent, charismatic Daemon Targaryen. No Mountbatten, this cruel, selfish and libidinous prince isn't the sort a monarch would want getting close to his teenage daughter. Not that King Viserys (Paddy Considine) can stop Daemon from doing whatever he feels like, even if he is his brother.

Don't confuse the character with pure evil, though. Smith doesn't, and the unpredictability that generates makes Daemon the show's most riveting character.

"Actually, Daemon's a hugely complicated creature," Smith says via phone on his way home to London from Warner Bros. Leavesden Studios, following a day's work on the prequel's second season. "He's way more sensitive than he lets on, and that gives you something to play against on screen. You can sort of invert it."

Which Smith does, eventually. But we're introduced to "The Rogue Prince" — also the title of "A Song of Ice and Fire" creator George R.R. Martin's 2014 novelette that supplies much of the first season's narrative — as the brutal head of King's Landing's City Watch, decapitating defenseless civilians. He soon proves not a very good sport after losing a joust. And when Viserys declares his only surviving child Rhaenyra (Milly

THE AMIABLE Smith is underneath that “House of the Dragon” wig.

Alcock) heir to the throne, his volatile brother is clearly not happy. Acting out, for Daemon, is a blood sport.

“There’s a lot going on with his brother that he’s coming to terms with,” says Smith, who noted that scenes with Considine really helped him define the character. “Viserys ostensibly brought him up, and for Daemon it’s either try to piss him off or impress him.”

So it’s more Freudian than just plain pervy when Daemon corrupts, and almost seduces, underage Rhaenyra? Or is he truly in love with her, as it often seems? After all, Daemon even marries Rhaenyra years later (when she’s played by Emma D’Arcy); typically, he murders at least one of his other wives in the interim.

“Well, in the land of the Targaryens, it’s more commonplace to be with your immediate family,” Smith explains with a slightly nervous laugh. “I think he’s quite a solitary creature, really. But he’s also quite a political one. There’s a sense that his brother and Rhaenyra, particularly, are the two people he would go to war for. It’s like he’s got this very weird sense of loyalty. To him, sometimes he’s doing the right thing even when he’s really doing the wrong thing.”

Just so you know, Smith seems the cordial opposite of Daemon Targaryen. Ten minutes into a trans-Atlantic conversation, he’s calling you brother like you’re an old pub buddy. His leisure interests are what you’d expect from someone with a common English name: Guinness, football, traveling. “I can’t play polo,” he points out, lest he get too stereotyped. Smith declines to discuss his love life, which has included fashion models and investment bankers. The British press got excited when he was seen in public with ex-girlfriend Lily James in February.

Much more than locating the man inside the monster went into creating Daemon. It takes the better part of each morning to get the Targaryen clan’s identifying silvery-blond, chest-length wigs on just so. There were lessons in horsemanship and broadsword handling. Smith also learned multiple dialects of Valyrian, the Latin-like language Westeros nobles use among themselves, which he often employed to bring out Daemon’s more thoughtful dimensions.

And of course, there was dragon riding. Daemon has his own flying fire-breather: Caraxes the Blood Wyrm.

“They built this huge plinth that you have to get up on, then they move you around by remote control,” Smith says of the dragon rig. “Last year, they did it on a volume stage, which is like a reality stage [it surrounds actors with immersive sky visuals as opposed to blank bluescreens]. It’s quite high in the air and it’s like a bucking bronco, essentially. You’re sitting on what looks like a massive motorcycle, a low-slung Harley-Davidson.”

Smith applies classic British dramatic training to these high-tech fantasy jobs. A drama teacher at his hometown Northampton School for Boys steered him into the National Youth Theatre, where among other plays he appeared in an adaptation of his favorite book, Mikhail Bulgakov’s “The Master and Margarita.” The supernatural Soviet satire gave Smith an early taste of the kind of challenges he’d encounter in “Doctor Who,” “House” and genre movies. The likes of “The History Boys,” “Swimming With Sharks” and “That Face” on London stages tempered more realistic, character-based chops. All of it appears to have gone into Daemon.

“Is there any kind of special approach to acting in fantasy shows?” he ponders. “No, it’s just about trying to find the truth on the day, really, and understanding what you’re in. Another thing that I think is important, what’s required of you: It should be simple but no simpler. It’s a question I’m still trying to find out about within myself.”

Regardless, he’s figured out how to take Daemon Targaryen beyond just evil.

“I mean, look, I’ve played Patrick Bateman on stage,” Smith says with perfect comic timing (he headlined a musical adaptation of “American Psycho” at London’s Almeida Theatre). “No one’s quite as f— up as him. I think it’s interesting to find what makes people tick. They’re all the letters of the alphabet essentially jumbled up together, and you can take different versions of them out at different times.

“Daemon sort of thrives on chaos. There’s an element of him that’s walking on a tightrope made of glass, and he loves that he could fall off at any time. He operates on his own sort of strange and often violent plane. But to him, the violence is not gratuitous. He’s not doing it clumsily, he’s doing it with purpose and precision. Now, whether that’s right or wrong is for other people to debate.”

PORTRAIT BY VINCENT TULLO / FOR THE TIMES. STILL BY OLLIE UPTON / MAX

FRESHMAN SERIES

RISK AND REWARD OF THE JOURNEY

“The Big Door Prize”
Apple TV+

Description

In “The Big Door Prize,” created by David West Read and based on the novel by M.O. Walsh, a mysterious “Morpho” machine resembling a photo booth appears in a small-town general store, offering participants the chance to learn their true potential. A kind of controlled chaos ensues, as residents make radical life changes, face disheartening results, or refuse to play along.

The Apple TV+ comedy stars Chris O’Dowd as Dusty, whose Morpho card seems to reflect a potential he’s realized. Meanwhile, his wife, Cass (Gabrielle Dennis), receives a card marked “Royalty,” which throws them for a loop. Long marriages break up, a garage is converted to a Wild West saloon, and the school principal joins a motorcycle gang, all thanks to Morpho. The series examines the myths we create about ourselves, the roads not taken and the courage — or recklessness— required to change course.

Reception

Ben Travers at IndieWire writes: “The 10-episode first season proves charming, well-considered and tonally sound. Its priority is always on its ensemble of characters, which brings out the best in an affable cast.” Amber Dowling of Variety notes: “It takes a beat to get into the unique tone of the series and to accept the magical realism that stops by now and again. But by the end, you do care about what happens to these people. In fact, you’ll probably be left wanting more.”

Perception

Creator Read was given the book by an agent to consider adapting, right before the pandemic hit. He was drawn to the “heightened comedy in a slightly surreal world,” Read says. As the shutdown continued, “the story of people who are reevaluating their life choices, and thinking about ways to start over, felt more and more timely and precious.”

Read adds that his star, O’Dowd, “excels in this comedy of anxiety and anguish. There’s something about the way he moves through the world that feels profoundly relatable.”

Each episode looks at the effects of Morpho on another character. “What I wanted to do in a series was something that’s not an anthology but that reveals people over time and builds this web of townspeople who are all interconnected,” Read says. “I love the magic trick of thinking you know who a character is and being surprised by the inner workings of that person’s mind and heart. No matter what you’ve done or how happy you might think you are, there’s always the idea of the other path. That was the theme that resonated and felt like it had endless potential, because it’s so universal.”

— Lisa Rosen

APPLE TV+

CHRIS O’DOWD plays one of the residents in a small town where a mysterious machine prompts the upending of lives.

THE GOLD STANDARD

Poised to laugh last

Will ‘Ted Lasso’ win a third series Emmy? Or can ‘Abbott Elementary’ or ‘The Bear’ end its streak? We rank the biggest threats in the comedy categories.

By Glenn Whipp

EMMY VOTERS are creatures of habit. That’s good news for “Ted Lasso” in its quest to win a third consecutive comedy series trophy and keep its perfect record intact. ¶ You’d figure that fans of the show would be sentimental enough to send the series off — if it is indeed leaving the air — with a warm, teary embrace. But “Ted Lasso” faces a formidable challenge this year from “Abbott Elementary.” The ABC sitcom earned seven nominations for its 13-episode debut season, winning three, including writing honors for creator Quinta Brunson and supporting actress for Sheryl Lee Ralph. “Abbott” was even better in its full second season, proving that it is possible to tell funny, heartwarming stories in a tight 22 minutes. ¶ And, as you’ll see here in our Emmy comedy power rankings, “Abbott” and “Ted Lasso” are far from the only shows in play. Let’s take a look at who might be smiling when nominations are revealed in July. (Note: The total haul predictions include every category, in addition to the ones specifically noted.)

10 ‘WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS’

Might be nominated: Comedy series. Plus, the show earned two writing nominations for its third season and could earn another for its fourth go-around, which saw no dip in quality.

Total haul: Let’s say four.

Could go on to win: “Shadows” took the fantasy/sci-fi costumes Emmy last year. If the outfits for baby Colin Robinson count, maybe it could repeat?

9 ‘WEDNESDAY’

Certain to be nominated: Lead actress Jenna Ortega

Might be nominated: Comedy series, supporting actress Gwendoline Christie, guest actress Catherine Zeta-Jones

Total haul: Five to seven, including a possible nod for Tim Burton, who earned a Directors Guild nomination earlier this year.

Could go on to win: I really don’t want to get on the wrong side of Wednesday Addams, so let’s just say ... *everything*! But realistically, the show skews a bit young for this voting group. On the other hand, it was widely seen.

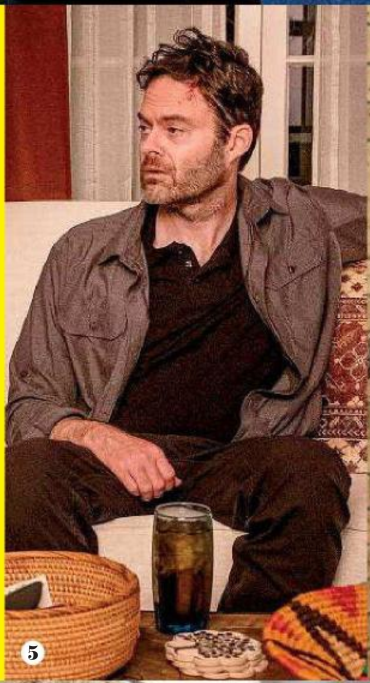
8 ‘SHRINKING’

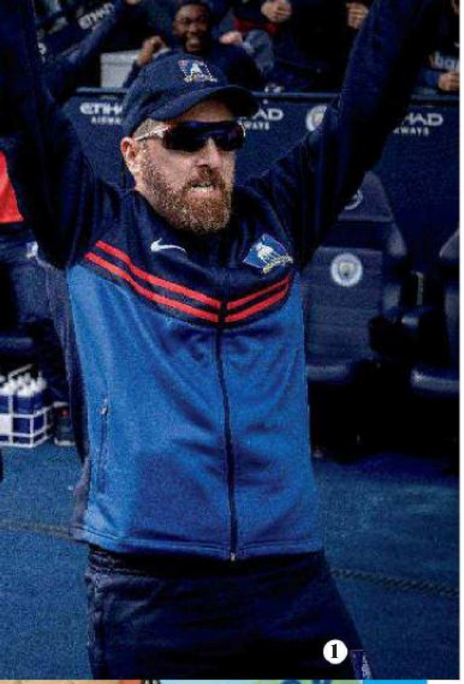
Certain to be nominated: Supporting actor Harrison Ford

Might be nominated: Comedy series, lead actor Jason Segel, supporting actress Jessica Williams

Total haul: The pilot episode was excellent, so perhaps it could land noms for writing and directing. For series, “Shrinking” will be competing with “Wednesday,” “What We Do in the Shadows” and “Poker Face” for the final couple of slots. Its earnest, adult approach will likely help its cause. How does eight nominations sound?

Could go on to win: If anyone could kick Roy Kent’s ass, it’s Ford.





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7 ‘POKER FACE’

Certain to be nominated: Lead actress Natasha Lyonne

Might be nominated: Comedy series, guest actresses Judith Light, Cherry Jones, Hong Chau, Ellen Barkin, Stephanie Hsu, guest actor Nick Nolte, Adrien Brody, Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Total haul: Could the guest actor categories be renamed “Outstanding Guest Actor/Actress in ‘Poker Face’ ”? Because, c’mon, how do you choose between all these great performances? (The list goes on: Chloë Sevigny and Tim Meadows, Lil Rel Howery …) I’m afraid the abundance could actually be a problem for Rian Johnson’s immensely entertaining mystery series, splitting the vote in too many directions. But let’s be optimistic and go with a dozen nominations.

Could go on to win: Lyonne makes it look so easy, but her turn as the show’s lie-detecting sleuth might be the most challenging among the lead actress contenders.

6 ‘THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL’

Certain to be nominated: Comedy series, lead actress Rachel Brosnahan, supporting actress Alex Borstein, supporting actor Tony Shalhoub, guest actor Luke Kirby

Might be nominated: Guest actor Hank Azaria

Total haul: By this point, the actors are automatic nominees, and the show will vacuum up the usual noms in costumes, makeup and hairstyling. Given that it stuck the landing on its fifth and final season, I’d guess “Maisel” should score at least a dozen, the same as last year.

Could go on to win: Kirby’s tender portrayal of tormented comedian Lenny Bruce has already earned him an Emmy, and along with the “Poker Face” crew, he’s the best in class this year too.

5 ‘BARRY’

Certain to be nominated: Comedy series, lead actor Bill Hader, supporting actors Henry Winkler and Anthony Carrigan

Might be nominated: Supporting actress Sarah Goldberg, supporting actor Stephen Root

Total haul: “Barry” does well in categories like sound, editing, stunts and cinematography, and I’d guess that Hader, who directed all eight episodes of the show’s final season, will score a nod for his work behind the camera too. Add it all up, and “Barry” should be good for 15 noms or so. And if one of them isn’t Root for his Raven, break out the grenade launcher.

Could go on to win: It’s a good bet to win the stunt trophy again. Nowadays, though, voters generally want their comedies on the sunny side, so don’t look for any Emmys in the main categories.

4 ‘ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING’

Certain to be nominated: Comedy series, lead actors Steve Martin and Martin Short, guest actress Shirley MacLaine, guest actor Nathan Lane

Might be nominated: Lead actress Selena Gomez, guest actresses Jane Lynch and Jayne Houdyshell

Total haul: “Murders” scored 17 nominations last year, and as the second season didn’t stray far from the formula that voters — and viewers — loved, expect about the same. And while we’re here, can we all agree that a nomination should go to Houdyshell? “The Last Day of Bunny Folger” was a terrific showcase for the Tony Award winner and the season’s standout episode.

Could go on to win: “Murders” took three Emmys last year — for production design, sound mixing and Lane. The real victory could come on nominations day if Gomez receives her first acting nod.

3 ‘THE BEAR’

Certain to be nominated: Comedy series, lead actor Jeremy Allen White, supporting actress Ayo Edebiri

Might be nominated: Supporting actor Ebon Moss-Bachrach, guest actors Jon Bernthal and Oliver Platt

Total haul: The standout of this year’s freshman comedy class, “The Bear” will begin airing its much-anticipated second season while nominations voting is underway. Could that have an impact? *Yes, chef!* It just well might.

Could go on to win: Is food prep or knife skills among the Emmys’ 838 categories? Who knows. But White should prevail, unless voters go all in for “Ted Lasso” and give another Emmy to Jason Sudeikis.

2 ‘ABBOTT ELEMENTARY’

Certain to be nominated: Comedy series, lead actress Quinta Brunson, supporting actresses Sheryl Lee Ralph, Janelle James and Lisa Ann Walter, supporting actor Tyler James Williams, guest actress Taraji P. Henson, guest actor Leslie Odom Jr.

Might be nominated: Supporting actor Chris Perfetti, guest actress Ayo Edebiri

Total haul: Double last year’s total of seven and throw in a few more for good measure. “Abbott” is a classic workplace sitcom and might soon join the pantheon if it maintains its quality.

Could go on to win: Ralph could repeat. Or it could be James’ turn for her outrageous portrayal of the self-absorbed principal. Brunson should pair her writing Emmy with an acting trophy, and Williams could win too. It deserves the series prize, but there’s plenty of time to talk about that.

1 ‘TED LASSO’

Certain to be nominated: Comedy series, lead actor Jason Sudeikis, supporting actresses Hannah Waddingham and Juno Temple, supporting actor Brett Goldstein

Might be nominated: Supporting actors Nick Mohammed and Phil Dunster, guest stars Becky Ann Baker, Harriet Walter, Sarah Niles, Sam Richardson

Total haul: Around 20

Could go on to win: None of its potential nominees are sure things, but it’s not hard to envision Goldstein winning again, both for Roy Kent’s journey and the way he yells “whistle” during practice. And it’ll probably win the comedy series Emmy too, as fans of the show loved the season, indulgences included.

COLIN HUTTON / APPLE TV+; GILLES MINGASSON / ABC; RUSS MARTIN / FX; PATRICK HARBRON / HULU; PEACOCK; HBO

PHOTO FROM ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

ONE SHOT

And a put-down was born

Created by Garry Marshall, “Happy Days” was wildly successful, producing 255 episodes over 11 seasons and drawing 30.5 million viewers for its finale, which aired Sept. 24, 1984. The 1950s-set sitcom surrounding the Cunningham family made waves, thanks to the popularity of Arthur Fonzarelli, better known as Fonzie, a leather jacketed greaser portrayed by “Barry” Emmy winner Henry Winkler. Fonzie rode motorcycles and had the magic touch. He personified “cool.” During the series’ fifth season, the Fonz is challenged to jump over a shark tank while water skiing. As his friends watch nervously, Fonzie — wearing his trademark jacket and swim trunks — easily sails over the tank. The ridiculousness of the setup inspired one of Tinseltown’s most notorious idioms: “jumping the shark.” Coined in 1985 by Jon Hein of “The Howard Stern Show” and his friend Sean Connolly, the phrase suggests a project has played itself out and is grasping for ideas. The moment might never have happened if it hadn’t been for Winkler’s father, who suggested his son tell producers he could water-ski, though a stuntman did the jump. TV history was unknowingly made that day. Or to quote Fonzie, “Aayyy.” — **Daron James**

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Los Angeles Times

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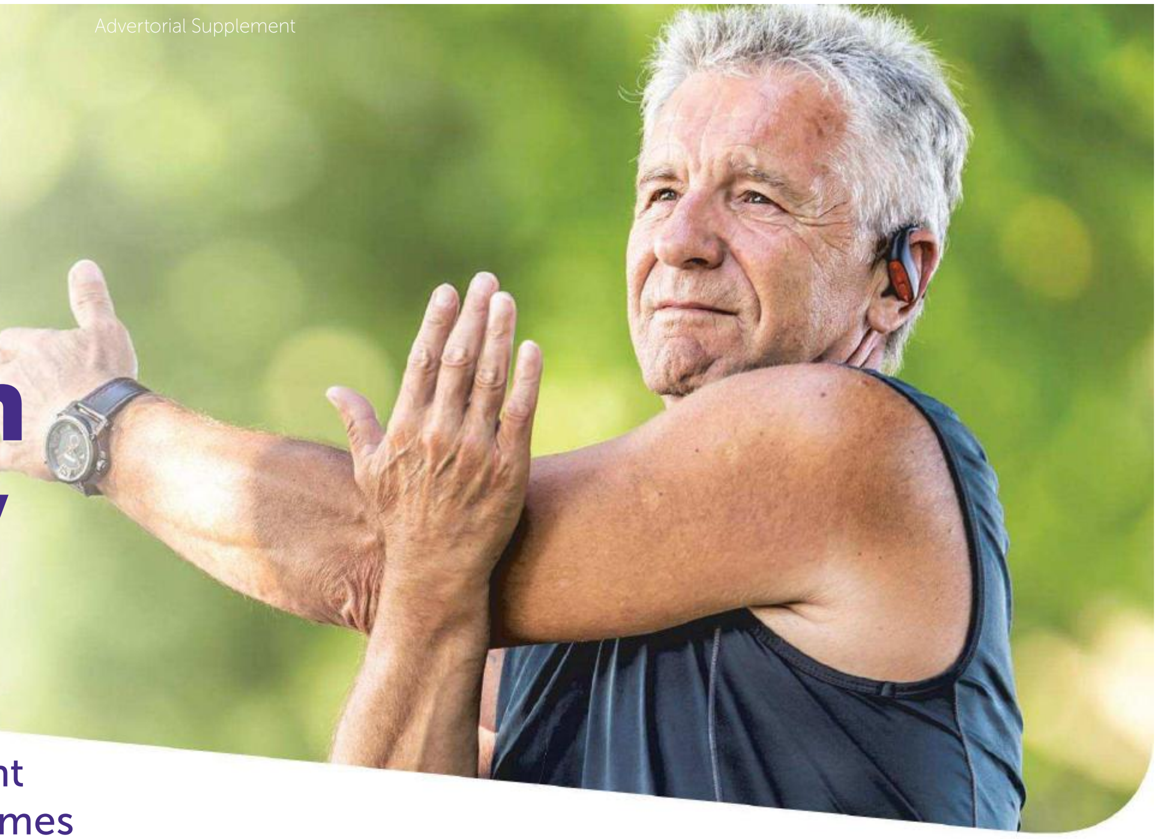

Patient education and empowerment show improvement in clinical outcomes

While spine surgery is a last resort for many patients with back or neck pain, at least 10% of the 50 million patients with back pain will ultimately require it. Should that need arise, the MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute offers a full spectrum of surgical approaches, including minimally invasive procedures, and partners with experienced and skillful surgeons. Research has shown that preoperative education can improve patient outcomes and satisfaction with the surgical experience.

The MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute is committed to preparing patients for surgery and provides nurse navigators to help guide patients and families along the way. The navigators provide support, answer questions and address concerns. Most importantly, they provide patients with the education needed for a successful outcome.

“Receiving pre-operative education is important because it helps patients prepare their minds and bodies for surgery,” says Jennifer Caballero, program coordinator, MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute, Long Beach Medical Center. “The pre-operative education program teaches patients what to expect from surgery, how to handle the surgery and manage their recovery at home.”

Nurse navigators help patients prepare for surgery by describing what to expect during their hospital stay and after surgery. Patients are encouraged to have a coach, which could be a friend or family member, to encourage, support and motivate them during recovery. Some patients like to go through the process with the support of a partner in care who can help encourage and support them through their treatment.

“We make sure our patients know what to expect throughout their entire journey, and if they want a family member or friend to help guide them, we support that environment,” says Winnie Elias, nurse navigator, MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute, Orange Coast Medical Center. “We believe in empowering our patients and know that their outcomes will be better if we give them the tools and support they need to have a successful recovery.”

The pre-operative education program educates patients and their families on the best way to make sure they can have a positive recovery at home. If physical therapy is recommended, nurse navigators help arrange these services so patients can learn movement exercises to do at home and how to arrange their homes to promote a safe environment without trip hazards that could cause a fall.

“We teach patients breathing exercises to help patients re-expand their lungs and start proper oxygenation, which is necessary for effective healing,” says Ildiko Vitez, nurse navigator, MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute, Saddleback Medical Center. “Patients also learn spine precautions from our physical therapists, such as how to exercise properly to promote healing, and how to avoid injuries during the recovery process.”

MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute puts the patient’s quality of life at the forefront of their care — getting them back to doing what they love. To learn more, visit memorialcare.org/MOSI.

Look inside to learn more about MemorialCare’s award-winning spine care. ➧

Struggling with back or neck pain?

The MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute can help

Expert Advice from:
Seth Ellis, RN
vice president, clinical integration,
MemorialCare

An aching back. A stiff neck. Most of us have experienced these painful episodes, whether from twisting the wrong way in a softball game or spending too many hours hunched over a cell phone.

"People suffer for a really long time and decide to see a doctor only when they can't tolerate the pain any longer, or they have a loss of mobility that impacts their lives, like walking, shopping or working," said Seth Ellis, RN, vice president of clinical integration at the MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute, a leading provider in spine-related issues at the MemorialCare hospitals in Long Beach, Fountain Valley and Laguna Hills.

"Our doctors and care teams understand this and offer treatment to restore the best and highest functional level possible," Ellis explained.

Most patients are referred by their primary physicians to the Institute for evaluation and care; others come by way of the emergency room.

MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute physicians will perform a physical exam, take a medical history, and prescribe imaging such as CT scans or MRIs to find the cause of the pain. Sprains and strains are common causes of temporary discomfort.

"The majority of back pain cases can be resolved with rest, heat, anti-inflammatory medications and physical therapy," Ellis said. "The pain usually goes away in about six weeks."

Longer-lasting pain and other symptoms might indicate more serious problems. Discs are the shock absorbers of the spine and are located between the vertebrae; when a disc ruptures, it can push into the spinal canal and put pressure on the nerve.

Discs may also be damaged by bone fractures and tumors and can deteriorate over time from a vitamin deficiency, the narrowing of the spinal canal, thinning of cartilage from arthritis, or an autoimmune disease.

Symptoms can include weakness or paralysis, loss of sensation in part of the body, changes in reflex movements, chronic muscle spasms, and difficulty walking or accomplishing everyday tasks. Longer lasting pain and other symptoms might indicate more serious problems and further investigation by a physician specialist.

The institute coordinates, integrates and supports MemorialCare's comprehensive spine program. Each hospital has patient navigators, experienced highly trained surgeons, and full rehabilitation programs for post-operative recovery. Treatment plans are personalized for individual patient needs, and may include a physiatrist (a doctor specializing in nonsurgical treatments and physical rehabilitation) or a therapy pool with instruction by aquatic exercise experts.

"Along with orthopedic specialists, neurosurgeons, other physicians and their teams, MemorialCare hospitals have a cadre of therapists: physical therapists, occupational therapists, pain managers and psychologists," Ellis added. "We have the facilities, expert physicians, technology, and professional staff to make a quick diagnosis. If surgery is needed, we have advanced imaging equipment and robotics to assist the physicians in optimizing diagnosis and outcomes."

"Medical teams collaborate on patient care and the MemorialCare hospitals provide education and customized assistance navigating patients through the steps up to and after treatment," Ellis said. "Every patient is different, and getting the information needed for a correct diagnosis is key. With the Institute's expertise across MemorialCare hospitals, we offer care for the very best outcome — close to home."

The institute coordinates, integrates and supports MemorialCare's comprehensive spine program.

Orthopedic & Spine Care

The MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute is a regional leader in conditions affecting the spine and joints through surgical and non-surgical interventions utilizing the most advanced technologies. Our renowned specialists provide complete care from pre-procedure education through post-procedure rehabilitation.

You can access our orthopedic and spine services at MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center, MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center, and MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center. Each location provides a patient navigator to guide you through every step of the process, including scheduling appointments and staying on track with your recovery plan.

MemorialCare Provides Comprehensive Care

Spine Health Centers

We offer comprehensive programs for patients needing spine surgery. We have experienced surgeons who can operate using the latest technology, such as ExcelsiusGPS® and the O-Arm™, which ensure accuracy and precision during surgery.

Non-surgical treatment of the spine, sometimes referred to as "conservative" treatment is used to describe any treatment or therapy that does not involve surgery. In fact, the vast majority of back or neck problems are successfully resolved with treatments or therapies that do not involve surgical procedures.

The goal of any treatment – conservative or surgical – is to reduce pain, limit further degeneration and get you back to your activities as soon as possible.

Joint Replacement Centers

We provide hip, knee, shoulder and ankle replacement, to support your long-lasting results and active lifestyle. From expert orthopedic specialists, to offering Mako® Robotic-Arm Assisted Surgery and OrthAlign for finer precision and accuracy — you'll find the joint care you need to move forward. We also encourage same-day movement, allowing most patients to go home less than two days after surgery.

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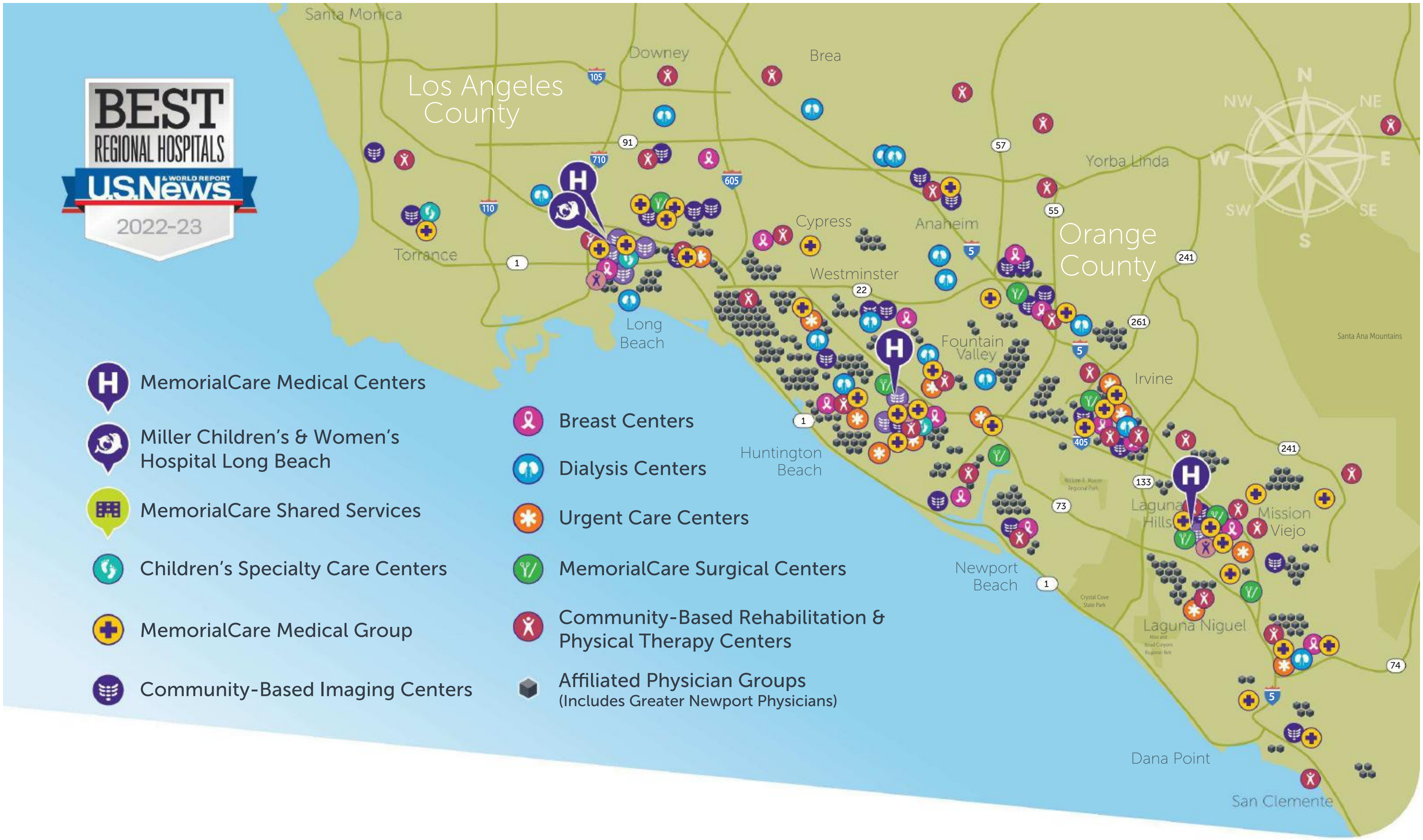
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Community-Based Rehabilitation & Physical Therapy Centers
Affiliated Physician Groups
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MemorialCare Orthopedic & Spine Institute Locations

Long Beach Medical Center
2801 Atlantic Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90806

Orange Coast Medical Center
18111 Brookhurst St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Saddleback Medical Center
24451 Health Center Drive
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

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